IROQUOIS INDIANS:

A Documentary History
of the Diplomacy of the Six Nations
and Their League

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INTRODUCTION

This compilation is like none other in the world. It is an archive of documents made by and concerning a people without scribes, documents recorded by other parties and originally filed away obscurely in repositories devoted to other interests. Because the League of the Iroquois and its constituent Six Nations negotiated diplomatically with the agents of empires, provinces, and nation-states, as well as with other Indian nations, Iroquois treaty documents came to rest in The Netherlands, France, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, and in many state and private collections, in all of which the Iroquois documents were secondary to the thousand and one concerns of Europeans and Euro-Americans. Now these many scattered collections have been culled to create the first authentic archive of an indigenous tribal people.

Strictly speaking, an archive consists of the documents generated by an agency or institution, but we may think in terms of an imaginary Iroquois foreign office whose papers were destroyed in an imaginary fire, being preserved only in the copies made for other parties to negotiations. With that fiction in mind, what we have here is a reconstituted archive. Regardless of problems of definition, it is a body of texts exceedingly important to genuinely reconstituting the history of the United States and its predecessor colonies and native peoples.

The Iroquois League was a great military and political power in North America during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Its importance was recognized by contemporary statesmen of competing European empires and colonies, who vied with each other to secure Iroquois friendship and alliance. After 1700, the Iroquois policy of neutrality maintained a balance of power between the empires that lasted until the Seven Years War, and the Iroquois nations were wooed by Britain and the United States during the War of the American Revolution. It is not possible to write a valid political history of eastern North America during the era preceding the Revolution without carefully considering Iroquois participation in the most important events of the time; and the basis of the Northwest Ordinances of 1784-87 was the treaty made at Fort Stanwix between the United States and the Iroquois in 1784.

Though the Iroquois League fragmented during the American Revolution and its people are now scattered on Canadian and American reservations, and individually as far as Hawaii, their history after the Revolution became inextricably part of the history of the Great Lakes region and of the vast intersocietal trade that moved westward across the continent. Defying dogmas of the vanishing Indian, more Iroquois are now alive than were previously recorded at any one time.

The major problem in studying Iroquois participation in North American history has been the scattered and unreliable condition of the source materials. A large number were virtually inaccessible. Most have never been validated by critical examination for omissions, variance between copies, or other contradiction by other contemporary documents. In national and state archives, Iroquois treaties are submerged in the general material, their arrangement and cataloging ill-suited to the study of indigenous peoples; and indexes are at best inadequate, often erroneous and misleading. There is continuing attrition of source manuscripts, identifiable by later references to documents that no longer can be found.

Now, however, most of the problems of access have been solved by the archive presented herein; and comparison of documents has been facilitated. The documents included were compiled by a project begun in September 1978 at the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian at the Newberry Library. Funded for three years by the Research Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and staffed by a historian and three anthropologists with the assistance of many temporary aides, the project initially aimed at compiling less than 3,000 texts, but even the specialists had badly underestimated Iroquois diplomatic activity and its involvements. The documents piled up to three times the original estimate, and the project's actual duration extended past its formal closing for three more years. It has been completed nevertheless, largely owing to the dedicated support of the Newberry Library and donation of labor by the staff. Many generous contributions by individuals and institutions are acknowledged below.

Project staff made no effort to collect original source documents. Instead, it copied them by microphotography or xerography and made paper copies of all documents to be filed in an archive at the Newberry. This publication reproduces that archive. It is open to addition as new documents come to light, and students are solicited to send information about such new documents to the Newberry. The archive's calendar is available on a computer printout at the Newberry, and a card index of names and subjects refers to about one-sixth of the documents on file. Access may be had by qualified students. An indexed document is noted as such by a degree sign after the date of the document on the headnote to the document and in the calendar. Regrettably the index could not be completed because of lack of funds, but it is useful in combination with the calendar. Both are printed in the guide that accompanies this film. A reader may wish to scan the calendar for context before concentrating on particular documents. Calendar and index, especially when used together, are finding aids for the location of particular documents and sets of related documents.

ABOUT THE TEXTS

What They Are

The documents presented here include the minutes of treaty conferences, the agreements resulting from formal meetings, and a broad range of background materials useful for interpreting motives, procedures, and effects. The editors' basic standard for selection was relevance to the diplomatic history of Iroquois nations or their league. Other parties involved in the negotiations are also included.

Most of the documents are manuscript or printed texts arranged in chronological order. Often it has been possible to compile copies of the same text from different sources, and sometimes these are variant, sometimes significantly so. All copies are included. Texts in languages other than English are presented but only rarely translated.

Photographs of wampum belts are also included as representing Indian records of negotiations. In almost all instances, it has not been possible to identify a particular belt with a specific written record, and the editors have concluded regretfully that the belts cannot be deciphered by a general code. Nevertheless certain conventional patterns have been observed, so the belts are grouped according to emblematic content, following the last written text at the end of the microfilm publication.

The documents span a period from the earliest surviving sixteenth century texts through the year 1842.

How They Were Copied

The editors depended on many archives and repositories for exact xerographic copies of original documents in their possession. Their valuable cooperation was unstinted, but the variety of their facilities for copying prevented the adoption of a uniform reduction ratio. Therefore, although the final microfilming at Research

Publications was done at a constant reduction ratio, there is no constant relation between the relative size of documents on our film and the actual dimensions of the originals.

The integrity of the documents was the editors' foremost concern. No document has been altered. Very few extractions were made and they are noted in every case. No marks were made by us on copies received except, in some cases, for bold editorial lines with arrows, to denote the beginning and end of a document. Such indications were also used to note overlapping when a large page had to be copied in sections.

The editors aimed at comprehensiveness. This objective required inclusion of some texts so mutilated or faint in the original as to be minimally legible. These are given nevertheless for whatever information can be extracted from them. Some are more legible in the technically enhanced copies than in the originals.

As in all publications, the originals remain the ultimate source to be consulted when issues of textual validity arise. The location of every document is given in a headnote.

How They Are Presented

Each entry consists of a headnote with the document's date, a brief description, and the source, followed by the document itself. In a few cases a translation or annotation will follow the document.

Each headnote description reflects the perspective of the document rather than editorial comment about it. As descriptions were often taken from catalogs or notations of source repositories, spelling of names is not standardized. Editorial remarks, if present, appear in parentheses or annotations.

Bracketed dates have been assigned by the editors. Single documents are given with the date when written regardless of the time referred to in their contents. This has been done because documents are products of the time and circumstances when written, and these may seriously affect interpretation of the contents. To preserve textual integrity, some texts have been included as found in collections of documents spanning a period of time which is so dated: e.g., 1645-Sept 1654. Multiple copies of the same document, same date, are distinguished as Document I, Document II, etc., and filed in sequence under their common date.

If a document is dated more than one year from the date of the treaty to which it pertains, it is cross-referenced under the treaty date. Because of the prolonged nature of many treaty negotiations, users should scan the compilation's calendar to find appropriate documents within a year of any event of interest. Although cross-references refer to specific documents, distinguished by Roman numerals in cases in which there is more than one document of the same date, references to other documents in editorial remarks within descriptions of a particular document do not make use of Roman numerals to distinguish between documents of the same date. In these cases, all documents of the date cited should be checked for the reference.

The editors have not tried to reconcile or adjust dates in the Old Style Julian calendar used by the English for many years after the French and Dutch had changed over to the New Style Gregorian calendar. Dates are given herein as they appear on the documents. When the English finally changed over, they often gave both new and old dates on the same text; in such instances the editors opted for the New Style annotation.

The project staff has compiled and edited a printed reference manual to assist in interpreting the texts, and we urge that it be kept handy during research. It is The History and Culture of Iroquois Diplomacy: An Interdisciplinary Guide to the Treaties of the Six Nations and Their League (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1984). It is a volume for quick and easy reference, self-contained but especially useful in conjunction with this compilation of documents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This archive could not have been compiled without the generous contributions of counsel and materials from many persons and agencies. No one is intentionally left out of the following list. Pardon is asked for any inadvertent omission.

Indian people: Early in the project, Richard Powless and Paul Williams of the Union of Ontario Indians provided a list of treaty documents. Seven persons from the Union of Ontario Indians visited the project from 23rd to 29th June 1979 and offered comments and suggestions. Phil Monture, Land Researcher at Six Nations Reserve shared knowledge of locations of source materials. George Abrams, Director of the Seneca Iroquois National Museum on the Allegany Seneca Reservation, and Ramona Charles, Librarian at the Community House on the Tonawanda Seneca Reservation, provided information about the location of materials. Tribal historians from different political persuasions on fellowship at the Center discussed the project with staff members during their residence: Norbert Hill and Sandra Orie came from the Oneida Reservation in Wisconsin, and Douglas George, recommended by the "traditional" Mohawk Nation, came from the St. Regis (Akwesasne) Reservation. Everett White, born and raised at St. Regis (Akwesasne), provided valuable information about documents based on his former experiences as an Indian Health Service employee and his personal interest in the history of his people. Most important information and advice were given on a visit by Cayuga Chief Jacob E. Thomas who represents the Cayuga nation in the Grand Council of the Houdenosaunee and teaches in Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. On 22nd May 1980, Chief Thomas made a joint presentation with Dr. Michael K. Foster, Iroquoian Ethnologist of the Canadian National Museum of Man. At a colloquium at the Newberry, they showed slides and facsimile artifacts and explained symbols in terms of Iroquois custom. Through the following day, Chief Thomas held nonstop conversation with project staff who took extensive notes and taped his analyses of certain wampum belts. He continued

in correspondence afterward. Informal visitors to the project included Charles Patton and Tyler Hemlock, Caughnawaga (Kahnawake) Mohawks; and Alice Armstrong and Helen Laughing, Mohawks employed in the Demographic Office, Mohawk Tribal Offices, St. Regis Reservation.

When Associate Director Mary A. Druke traveled to Indian communities, she was received hospitably everywhere. Indians of Onondaga, including Oren Lyons, Irving Powless, Jr., and Irving Powless, Sr., though unsympathetic to the project, received her graciously and explained their attitudes. Information about documentary material and oral traditions were provided to her by residents of the following Indian communities: Allegany; Cattaraugus; Caughnawaga (Kahnawake), Onondaga, St. Regis (Akwesasne), Six Nations Reserve; Tonawanda; and Tuscarora.

Project Aides:

Consultants. Charles Gehring, of the New York State Library, Manuscripts, provided notes on Dutch manuscripts in the Livingston Family Papers at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. Paul Stevens, a Fellow at the McNickle Center, compiled and annotated source documents of the era of the American Revolution. Another McNickle Center Fellow, Professor Richard Haan, contributed copies of odd documents he had been collecting for ten years. Mary Ann Mayes searched William N. Fenton's files and compiled a list of cited Iroquois documents. Lieutenant Commander C. McD. Stuart, RN, searched uncalendared treaty texts at the Public Record Office of Great Britain and arranged for transmission of copies. Paul Grey, graduate student at the University of London, acted as liaison between the project staff and the Public Record Office in acquiring documents ordered by the staff. Professional indexer Elin Christianson advised on indexing procedures. Major F.E.G. Bageshawe, of Matlock, England, provided photographs of a wampum belt in private hands.

Office employees at various times included Nancy Kovitz; Peter Radke; Polly Strong, University of Chicago graduate student; Andrew Tobin, Bennington College student; Karli Erica White. Wesley Andrews arranged much of the final organization of the archive files. The project was also helped by several students enrolled in undergraduate independent study seminars of the Association of the Colleges of the Midwest and the Great Lakes Colleges Association, whose wages were paid by the associations and the Newberry. David L. Ghere accomplished "last minute" tasks.

Volunteers included Claudette Alm; Jeanette Campanella; Lucy Caples; Herbert Furse; Ted Knutson; Nancy Kovitz; Dorothy Markowitz; Virginia Meyers; Noel O'Reilly; Mary Louise Ramsey; Mrs. Gerald Sivage. They sorted and identified the masses of documents arriving in the mails, and put them in order for editors' review.

Newberry Library staff. Special interest was maintained and special help provided by John Aubrey, Michael Kaplan, Steve Mandel, Terry Sullivan, and Michelene Fixico; and much gratitude is owed for the patience of Richard H. Brown.

Advice and information were exchanged with colleagues of the Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History project: Helen Hornbeck Tanner, Adele Hast, and Jacqueline Peterson. The members of the Conference on Iroquois Research and the American Society for Ethnohistory devoted three successive panel sessions to the project at annual meetings.

Institutions:

Special gratitude is owed to the Public Archives of Canada for its gift of copies of treaties and surrenders in its possession. Thanks must also be expressed to the Rochester [N.Y.] Museum and Science Center for its donation of photographs of its large collection of wampum belts. The University of Chicago made copyflo paper copies of microfilm at a minimal cost far below commercial prices. Research Publications sent a photographer without charge to film documents located at the Albany Institute of History and Art and at the New York State Archives in Albany. Work on the project was greatly facilitated by materials collected in research travel previous to the project and incorporated into project files. The American Philosophical Society made such research fellowship grants to Director Jennings and Associate Director Druke. Through such generous contributions, as well as time and energy given by individuals, the project managed to stay within its budget despite its massive increase in size. When the project could not be finished within its allotted three years, the Newberry Library financed it to completion.

Thanks are due to each repository, publication, or individual source of materials listed below which made available copies of materials in its collections. together they have made this publication possible.

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Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester, N.Y. Courtesy of the Research Division.

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Duplicate

Conclusion of a Speech delivered in a Council held at Niagara the 1st April with the Six Nation Indians; addressed to Sir John Johnson, and transmitted to His Excellency General Haldimand by Brigadier General Maclean

Some accounts lately arrived at this Post, informs us that a Peace is nearly on a conclusion, in that case, we hope, and rely on you, (as Father of all Indians on this Island) that we may not be forgotten but be included with Yourselves in such a manner as will be for both our Interests

(delivered a Belt of Wampum)

Extract of a Speech Six Nation
Indians delivered in Council
at Niagara 7th April 1783

In Gov.r Haldimand's
No. 1 – of 2d June 1783
No. 2.

In
No.

of the Debts due by the Merchants, particularly Mess.rs Shaw & Fraser upon Bills of Exchange drawn in 1782.

I have the Honor &ca (Signed) Fred. Haldimand

P.S. I beg leave to inclose an Extract of a Speech delivered by the Six Nation Indians which I have just received from Brig. Genl. Maclean.

Lord North

Quebec 2d June 1783

My Lord

I have had the Honor to receive your Lordship's Letter of the 2d April, acquainting me with His Majesty's Gracious appointment of Your Lordship to the Office of one of the Principal Secretaries of State.

I inclose a Duplicate of a Letter from me of the 7th May to Lord Sydney. It was sent by a Merchant Vessel which Sailed for Halifax. In addition to that Letter I have to acquaint your Lordship that the Six Confederate Nations of Indians, having had information of the Provisional Treaty with America, deputed Joseph Brant and John the Mohawk (two Indians who had much distinguished themselves during the War) to Quebec, in order to be made acquainted by me with the Articles of the Treaty, and the truth of the Reports which have been spread amongst them. Their Speech is inclosed as translated by the Interpreter who is well versed in their Language and manners. I own that I was much embarrassed and wished to have it in my Power to

Provisional Treaty with America, deputed Joseph Brant and John the Mohawk (two Indians who had much distinguished themselves during the War) to Quebec, in order to be made acquainted by me with the Articles of the Treaty, and the truth of the Reports which had been spread amongst them. — Their Speech is enclosed as translated by the Interpreter who is well versed in their Language and manners. I own that I was much embarraſsed and wished to have it in my Power to talk to them with more Certainty than I could, of the measures which Government intended to take for their security and Welfare. — These Indians have great merit and sufferings to plead in the Cause of Great Britain. It will be a difficult task after what has happened to Convince them of our good faith, they seem peculiarly hurt that no mention is made of them in the Treaty. — Your Lordship may be aſsured that nothing shall be neglected on my Part which can Contribute to give them Satisfaction, or to reconcile them with the Subjects of the United States of North America, tho' I must Acknowledge that I foresee great difficulties — Actions, not words, can make Impreſsion upon them. I have therefore dispatched Major Holland the Surveyor General of the Province to Lake Ontario, to examine into the State of the old French Post at Cataraqui, and to survey the North side of the Lake as I will endeavour to prevail upon the Mohawks to settle there provided the Country Contigeous to it should be found propitious. Joseph Brant & John the Mohawk are returned with him. I have lately received a Letter from Brigadier General Maclean who Commands at Niagara. It is inclosed for your Lordship's Information. Affairs with the Indians are in a very critical Situation. I have ordered and insisted upon Sir John Johnson's immediate departure for Niagara in hopes that his Influence may be of use in preventing the bad consequences which may be apprehended. I have been Aſsured by the Officers who brought me the accounts of the Ceſsation of Arms, via New York, that General Schuyler and the American Officers, made no Secret of their Hostile Intentions against the Indians and such Royalists as had served amongst them. It is to be hoped that the American Congreſs will adopt a Line of Conduct more Consonant to Humanity as well as Policy. In the mean time I have instructed the Officers Commanding at the different Posts to be very much upon their Guard and at the same time to be very industrious in giving every Satisfaction to our Indian Allies. I wait with great impatience for the Dispatch promised in Lord Sydney's Letter of the 28th February. It is with real pleasure that I perceive from a Paragraph in the same Letter that His Majesty's Ministers had taken into Consideration a Proposal which I made in my Letter of the 25th of last October to Lord Sydney relative to a settlement for the Loyalists near Detroit. I will give the neceſsary directions to procure the Information which is wanted, tho I must observe that Detroit with the very considerable settlement already made there, is within the Limits of the United States, and that it is very doubtful whether the Hurons with real pleasure that I perceive from

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I no sooner Ordered His Majesty's Proclamation for a Ceſsation of Hostilities to be published than I caused Meſsrs Hay and DuCalvet and others whom the exigencies of the State had obliged me to keep in Confinement, to be released. I am happy to find that His Majesty has adopted my Idea that these men and others under the same Predicament ought not to be released, but from a Persuasion in the Governor that their Enlargement would not be detrimental to the Public Tranquility. His Majesty may be aſsured that my grateful Efforts will be exerted to preserve the good opinion and Confidence which He has in my Zeal for his Service and Attachment to the Welfare of his People.

An easy and safe Communication between this Country, &

Novascotia

Nova Scotia becomes at this time a necessary consideration of Government, as well for Commercial purposes as for mutual Security. I have therefore ordered the Grand Voyer and Deputy Surveyor General to trace a Road from this Country to Lake Temisquata, which empties itself into the River St. Johns — I hope His Majesty's Governor of Nova Scotia will take the same Steps within his Government. — I prepare this dispatch without waiting for Orders and directions from your Lordship as I wish you to be informed of the State of things with regard to the Indians, and as I am very anxious to give the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Information of the money Matter within the Province and of the difficulties in which Mr. Cochrane the Agent for the Remitters of Public Money has involved the Crown and his Constituents by allowing their and the Public money to the Amount of no less a sum than £134,000 & upwards, to be employed in the Mercantile Speculation of Messrs. Shaw and Fraser. I have the Honor to be &c.

Signed/ Fr. Haldimand

Lord North

Quebec 14th June 1783

My Lord

I have had the Honor to Receive your Lordship's Letters of the 10th and 16th of last April by His Majesty's Sloop the Bulldog. I have given orders to withdraw the Foreign Troops from the Interior parts of the Province and will lose no time in taking every Step which can facilitate their speedy Embarkation. I find there are

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Lord North
(No. 1)
by Bulldog 29 June
dupt. by the London
the 23d. July.

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42

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An easy and Safe Communication between This Country and Nova Scotia becomes at this Time a necessary consideration of Government, as Well for Commercial purposes as for Mutual Security. I have therefore ordered the Grand Voyer and Dep: Surveyor General to trace a Road from This Country to Lake Temiscouata, Which empties itself into the River St Johns. I hope His Majesty's Governor of Nova Scotia Will take the same Steps within his Government. — I prepare this Dispatch without Waiting for Orders and directions from Your Lordship as I wish you to be informed of the State of things With regard to the Indians, and as I am very Anxious to give the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury Information of the Money Matters within the Province and of the difficulties in Which Mr Cochrane the Agent for the Remitters of Publick Money has involved the Crown and his Constituents by Allowing their and the Publick Money to the amount of no less a Sum than £130,000 of the Money Matters within the Province and of the difficulties in which Mr. Cochrane the Agent for the Remitters of Public Money have involved the Crown and his Constituents by allowing them and the Public Money to the amount of no less a sum than £134,000 & upwards, to be employed in the Mercantile Speculations of Messrs. Shaw and Fraser — I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect and Esteem My Lord

Your Lordships Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servt (Signed) F: H:

Lord North
(No. 2.)

Bull-dog, 29 June

Dupl. by the London the 28. July —

Quebec June 14th 1783 —

My Lord

I have had the Honor to Receive Your Lordships Letters of the 10th and 16th of last April by His Majesty's Sloop the Bull-dog. I have given orders to withdraw the Foreign Troops from the Interior parts of the Province and

Sir   Niagara 10th June 1783—

I am happy to have it in my Power to inform Your Excellency, that the Indians behave very well are very quiet, and I hope will Continue so, Notwithstanding the Many reports Propagated among them, they say they are resolved to belive Nothing they hear from bad Birds, but will wait with Patience, till they hear from Your Excellency by Sir John Johnson, whom they most Anxiously wish to see, and whose Presence here will be absolutly Necessary—

Your Excellencys Letter of the 26 April (which Letter I received on the 9th May) forbids the Carrying on of Fortifications or any Public Works Whatever at the upper Posts, which Orders were imediatly Complied with; But, I did not apprehend, that the Mill a building on the other side, came Exactly under the description of public works at this Post, I allowed the Eight men at Work on the Mills to Continue at Work, as your Excellency seemed to wish them finished; and, that did you incline to discontinue building the Mills; that it would have been Particularly Mentioned. Indeed it would be a great Pity not to go on with that Work, as the want of Mills, would oblige the Settlers, to quite their farms, besides preventing many others from taking farms, who wish much to stay on the other side rather than be forced to become the Subjects of the American States.

My reason for troubling your Excellency on this Subject, is, that in two Letters your Excellency was pleased to Mention that the Iron Work for the

General Haldimand

Mills would be sent up with the first Boats Early in the Spring, and none having arrived I am under some apprehension, that the Mills might be comprehended in the order, ~~be~~ tho' not expressed; I shall therefore request that Your Excellency may be pleased to let me know if its meant ~~that the~~ finishing the Mills is to be put a stop to; indeed they Cannot ~~so~~ now do much untill they have the Iron Work for the Saw Mill, as the Saw Mill, is all finished to the Iron work, and if it was once sett agoing the Grist Mill would very soon be Compleat; —

We shall soon be without one Gallon of Rum here, nor have they one drop at Carleton Island, to send us, and when your Excellency will Consider that on the 24 last November, we had only 1470 Gallons of Rum here, and had besides Indians, the Seamen belonging to four of the Vessells; I flatter my self that it will be found that the Expenditure of Rum for the last Eight Months has not Amounted to one half the usual Consumtion. but it is absolutely necessary some should be sent as soon as possible for the Navy & the Indians —

I have the honor herewith to transmit your Excellency a Coppy of ~~my~~ last letter I had from Major Depeyster, with a return of the Indian presents, Sundrys that will be necessary for Detroit, Colonel Butler tells me he can spare none from hence, I therefore request to ~~b~~ you will be pleased to let me know what Answer I am to make to Major Depeyster

I have the honor to be respectfully
Your Excellencys
Most obedient And
Most Humble Servant —
Allan Maclean —

P: S: I have this day Borrowed one Puncheon of Rum, which is all I could get, but am resolved to follow your Excellencys Orders, and not buy Any happen What Will -

1783

From

Brig.r General Maclean

of the 10th June, Rec.d 25th

with 3 Enclosures N.o 5, 6 & 7.

Sir —

Niagara 12th June 1783

I had the honor of writing your Excellency on the 10th Instant, This morning I received a Letter from Major Depeyster, Copy of which I herewith transmit to Your Excellency together with its different Inclosures; I wrote Major Depeyster, that I thought he had Acted Very Properly, in leaving it to the Indians to act as they pleased in geting back their own Prisoners as well as in declining to Enter into any Exchange of Prisoners, that we had in our Possession; untill we had Proper Authority for so doing. —

From the inclosed Letters Your Excellency will see that the Indians have behaved well, and I am Glad to find that the Messengers from the Six Nations have advised them to refrain from any hostilities —

In my Letter of the 10th I forgot to mention that there is a quantity of Wheat brought in by the farmers to the Kings Store, for which they received flour agreeable to Your Excellencys Orders, and that Year they will have above twice the Quantity, all which will be useless, should the Mills not be finished, and should Government resolve to take Post on the Other Side, the Saw Mill would be of the greatest Consequence; and in Six Months would pay the Expence of Building it.

I have the honor to be respectfully
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant

General Haldimand

Allan Maclean

Copy of a Letter from
Major Douglass to
Mr Elliott dated Delaware
Town on Sandusky
June 17th 1793 —

(Copy)

Detroit the 18th June 1783

Sir,

I am favored with your letter of the 10th instant, and am sorry to find it was not in your Power to forward the Goods so much wanting for Indians at this Post. I am still in hopes that notwithstanding it is reported we are to give up the Posts we shall have it in our power to acquit ourselves honourably of our promises to the Indians, to whom much [illegible] is due. I am almost harassed out of all Patience, but hitherto have kept from communicating the Articles relative to the Boundaries, the Indians nevertheless hear them from all quarters, and there are many, Indians as well as whites amongst them that can read, and to whom even Lord Carlisles Speech is no secret. I sometime ago came to the resolution of inviting four Chiefs of each Nation to attend a Council at Detroit on or about the 1st July – this will for a while renew their confidence, & prevent such numbers swarming in to hear the news — The Hatchet must be burried in form, a Ceremony not to be performed without expence, it therefore gives me pleasure to think that we shall be favoured with a Visit from Sir John Johnson, who no doubt will bring wherewithal to satisfy the Indians, or, send such directions as will enable me to do it in case he does not make the Tour. I beg once more to observe that I have agreable to your desire, forwarded the Goods for Capt. Robertson two Bales and one half of the Powder excepted, the whole to have remained here would have gone but a short way.

(Signed) Ar. S. DePeyster

Brigr. General Maclean.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Copy of a Letter from
Major De Peyster to
Brig^{r} General Maclean
Dated at Detroit June 18th
1783

Sir Niagara 21st June 1783—

As the situation of my private affairs in Scotland, from whence I have been absent upwards of eight years, requires my presence there; and as my Nephew, who was in India when he succeeded to his father's Estate, and who died in the year 1780 on his passage to Jamaica with his Regt., finds it necessary for the arrangement of his affairs before he returns to India, that I should be present to give my consent to such arrangements, as nearest Heir of Entail, without which, nothing can be done; I hope Your Excellency will forgive my applying to you for leave of absence, as soon as the Court Martial of which I am ordered to be President, is over, which I shall esteem as a particular favor.——My Nephew proposes to return to India next winter.——I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Sir
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient &
most Humble Servant
A: Dundas

His Ex: Genl. Haldimand

1783.

From

B. Gen^{l}. Maclean

21st Decem^{r} Rec^{d}. 5th Feb^{y}

Sir   Niagara 28d. June 1783 —

150

Your Excellency's Letter of the 25t. May directs me to make the Strictest Inquiry into the reasons that Occasion the bad State of the Pork received here from Carleton Island, that the Damage could not be so General & immense, but by Some Very unpardonable neglect, and directing me after I had made this Inquiry to Report to Your Excellency thereon.

In Obedience to your Commands therefore I take the Liberty to inform you, that after getting every information I was able, and making the strictest inquiry I do not find there was any Neglect, on the Part of those who had the Charge of that Pork, but the real reasons for the Pork being in such a bad State is apparent and Visible from Occular Inspection. All the Pork casks come from England last year were originally bad the Staves amazingly Slight, old, and many of them Rotten by which means Ninteen in twenty of them, the Chines are all together brook off, and by that means the pickle all run off; the Pork becomes dry & soon Spoiles, and to this Evil there is no possible remedy, so that the present bad State of the Pork is owing to the neglect of the Contractors at home by puting it up in Casks so Slight that they are unfit for the Service of this Country, and for which in my Opinion they are reprehensible, these Contractors know that they are only answerable for the provisions Six Months after delivery at Cork in Ireland or at Cowes in England, and that time Expires before any of it can arrive in Canada, There is also an other

General Haldimand

Reason

season, that no doubt must contribute to Damage the Pork Barrells. Your Excellency is no stranger to the length and difficulty of the transport of provision from Quebec to the Upper posts, how frequently they must be put upon Carts, from Carts into Boats, put on Shore at Carleton Island, carried again in boats along side of the Shipping &c when large quantities of provision comes from Canada in the fall (and from the late arrival of the fleets from Europe there has been an absolute Necessity of sending up large quantities late in the season) the water is cold the Canadians are in a hurry and by that means they tumble the casks out & into the Boats in a hasty manner, and the Casks being bad, many of the casks that are apparently sent of in Good order from Montreal have all the Chines broke off before they come to Carleton Island. these Sir in my humble Opinion are the real, and indeed the only reasons for the Pork being in so Bad a state, and not owing to neglect as the Evil was beyond any remedy that could possibly be applied in the upper posts.

I am also to report to your Excellency that there is an Other Misfortune attending the Pork which we have lately discovered, and at which I am greatly mortifyed & disappointed, and that is that the Pork that we have repacked & pickled in good sufficient clean rum or other Barrells, will not keep, and that we have been under the Necessity of begining to issue it already, yet I can assure your Excellency that the Pickle was strong, well boiled

And well Skimed, but its believed that the Salt saved from the Pork Barrells is not so good or Strong as fresh Salt this may be true, tho I cannot say that I implicitly believe it, be that as it may I am sorry the truth is that the pork will not keep. I am however happy to inform Your Excellency that I hope our loss of Pork here upon the whole will be trifling, owing to the large Consumption for the Indians, and the care taken to issue the worst Barrells first —

I have collected every good Barrell or puncheon I could get here or at Fort Schlosser, but I could get none from the Adjacent quarters, as they were at Carleton Island in a worse Situation than we were in here, no pains or trouble shall be spared by me towards the preservation of the provisions on this Your Excellency may depend. As no Commissary is Come here and that Mr. Bliss gave up his charge on the 24th. April I am infinitely obliged to Commissary Maclean in having spared me Mr. MacNab who I find a diligent Carefull honest man; the sending MacNab here no doubt will give Mr. Maclean a good deal of additional trouble. I hope Mr Day the Commissary General will soon appear himself when he will be able to get a Compleat State of all provisions at the posts —

I have the honor to be most respectfully
Your Excellencys
Most obedient and
most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

1783.

From
B. Genl. Maclean
23d. June - Recd. 5th. Jy

Sir - Niagara 22d. June 1783 -

I am honored with your Excellency's Several Letters of the 23d. 24th. 25th and 26 May and shall pay Particular attention according to the best of my abilities to Execute your Commands, on the different Matters your Excellency is pleased to recommend, and shall give every assistance in my Power to Sir John Johnson when he Arrives. — This Morning Colonel Butler Called upon me, and told me that he had been informed by Mr. Deace that Sir John had gone to Cataraqui to take up Lands as a Settlement for the Mohawks, how Mr. Deace came by that intelligence I know not, but Colonel Butler said that he hoped no such measure might be adobted, without first having asked and Obtained the Consent of the Chipewa Indians, Otherwise it would Occassion a great deal of Noise and much Confussion. My answer to him was, not to make himself Uneasy that he had every reason to believe that the Commander in Chief would not act hastily in any such Matter, that Sending an Engineer to Cadaroqui to look at the place in case Government should think Proper to transport them, was a Matter in my Opinion that could give no great umbrage to the Chipewas, that I did suppose Major Holland would Examine the place and report his Opinion to Your Excellency, that I therefore must think Mr. Deace's news premature at all Events - Mr Deace says he heard of it, from a Mr Pollard Merchant at Montreal now here, who says he heard it from Major Holland at Carleton Island, For my

General Haldimand

Part in So far as the Chipewas are Concerned I do not think it of any Consequence, a Barrel of Rum and Some Strouets will gain their Consent at any time, but Should Such a report gain Credit among the Six Nations at this Moment, it would Alarm them greatly. I have therefore directed Colonel Butler to Suppress Such Notions by all means, and to wait the arrival of Sir John with Patience — The Indians at present are quiet & Orderly and I hope will Continue So Provided we had a Little Rum to give them, and without Some there is nothing will have any Effect upon them; I have formerly mentioned to Your Excellency that long before my Arrivall here 1800 Gallons of Rum had been borrowed from Hamilton & Cartwright that the Rum bought by Colonel Dundass had all been returned to the Owner, Except 231 Gallons, and that I made Shift to Repay 600 Gallons of the 1800 out of our Small Stock here, and that, how Soon I heard that ten Puncheons had Come to Carleton Island I ordered it up here, and paid Hamilton & Cartwright the 1200 Gallons owing to them all to 80 Gallons Still due, so that the ten Puncheons fell 80 Gallons Short of what we were Owing, Yesterday I received from the Commissary at Carleton Island the Coppy of an Order he had from the Commissary General which I take the Liberty of inclosing to your Excellency and I hope you will be so good as direct that three Puncheons of the ten mentioned in that

order

Ordered up here, for I am Convinced that One Puncheon of Rum Will have more Effect on the Six Nations than all the all the abilities of Sir John Johnson joined with every other Aſsistance we shall be able to Give him in that Place without Rum.

I have the honor to be respectfully
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

1783

[illegible]

B. Genl. Maclean

22d. June - Recd. 5th. Aug

[illegible]

Sir

Niagara 22 June 1783 —

I am honored with your Excellencys most Obliging Letter of the 24th May; in Answer to my Letter of the 28th April requesting permission to go to England.

Your Excellencys refusal is Conveyed in such flattering terms to me, that even did not my duty oblige to it, I must with pleasure acquiesce in your Excellencys determination, being perfectly satisfied, that with your usual goodness & Condescention to me, I shall have your Permission to go home how soon your Excellency will think my Services may be dispensed with, And under your Patronage & Protection, I think I cannot miss receiving some mark of the Royal favour.

Permit also to return your Excellency my most sincere thanks for your goodness & Condescention in Ordering a Copy of Sir Charles Goulds Letter about the General Court Martial to be sent me; and for this and other Marks of your Condesention to me give me leave to assure your Excellency that I have the honor to be with the Sincerest Esteem and the most perfect Attachement

Your Excellencys
Most faithfull and
Much oblig'd humble Servant
Allan Maclean

General Haldimand

Quebec 26th June 1783

Sir

Agreeably to the Commands contained in your Excellency's Letter to me dated the 26th of last month, I immediately set off for Montreal with the two Mohawk Captains Brant and John, there I left them, Capt. Brant being unable to proceed from Sickness. On the 3d of June Capt. La Force joined me at La Chine, and we proceeded with two Batteaux for Carleton Island. As the time limited by your Excellency for my return would not permit me to make an actual Survey of the ungranted Lands on the North Side of the River St Lawrence, I examined them with attention, and collected all the information I could as to the facility of establishing settlements there, and I found that from the supposed bounds of the Seignuerie of Soulange, the property of Monsieur de Longueuile on the Lake St

[illegible]

attention, and collected all the information I could as to the facility of establishing settlers on them, and I found that from the supposed bounds of the Seigneurie of Soulange the property of Monsieur de Longueuil on the Lake St Francis the lands are low towards the Water side and fit for meadows but at some distance the soil is exceeding good for tillage. From the Upper part of Lake St Francis to the long Sault no land can be more promising, covered with fine Timber fit for building Vessels and in many places Pineries fit for Masts — the Shore along the long Sault has not an inviting aspect, but the soil, tis said at some great distance back is equal to that on Lake St Francis.

There are fine Pineries two or three Miles from the waters edge, where large Masts may be procured.

From the head of the long Sault to the Top

His Excellency General Haldimand

of the uppermost rapid, where the Navigation begins the Country has a most favorable appearance, from thence to Cataraqui the shore is high and Rocky, but opening here and there into beautiful Coves and Bays where the view extends a great way with fine natural meadows — and though the Shore appears rough and uninviting the Soil is rich at some distance fit for all purposes of agriculture as I have been informed.

I arrived at Carleton Island on the 10th late at night, and applied to Major Harris to dispatch your Orders for Major Ross and Mr. Tinling the Assistant Engineer; on the 13th I reached Cataraqui and began the Survey of the Fort and intrenchments made there by the French Troops: on the following day my assistant proceeded to survey the Harbour and Captain La Force to take the Soundings — Lieut. Tinling joined me on the 17th when I examined the Fort, and made arrangements for the reestablishment of this important Post, which in every part surpassed the favorable idea I had formed of it. Your Excellency,

Harbour and Captain [illegible] to take the Soundings —
Lieut. [illegible] joined me on the 17th when I examined the
Port and made arrangements for the reestablishment
of this important Post which in every part surpassed
the favorable idea I had formed of it. Your Excellency
will perceive its advantageous situation by the plans &
drawings which accompany this Letter.

The Vaults still
remain entire with part of the Walls of the Fort, Barrack
&c. having such a Stone as would contribute to lessen the
expence of its reestablishment. the Works or Lines begun by
the French on the Commanding Grounds near the Fort,
will cover a sufficient space for a Town: the harbour is in
every respect good and most conveniently situated to
command Lake Ontario — the Batteau men prefer
keeping over on this Side, as they can follow the Shore,

without crossing to the Islands in their course.

Captain Joseph Brant with several Indians of the Six Nations, went up to Cataraqui falls and made excursions into the Woods they seemed to be well satisfied with the Country at their return they declined saying any thing concerning the Lands, but told me that as soon as they have examined the North Side of the Lake, they will inform your Excellency of the Spot where they'll choose to fix their abodes; for this purpose they have sent Captain Isaac with Six men of their number to accompany the Surveying Party.

On the 19th we returned to Carleton Island where I arranged matters with Major Harris and wrote to Major Ross for Fifty men from each Post, and to transport materials to Cataraqui to prosecute the Works carrying on there under Mr Tinling, with whom I left Lieut. Holland as an Assistant who was dispatched to forward materials from Oswego.

Captain La Force, Mr Collins, & Mr Peachey

Surveying & matters with Major Harris and wrote to Majr Jessup for Fifty men from each Post, and to transport materials to Cataraqui to prosecute the Works carrying on there under Mr Tinling, with whom I left Lieut. Holland as an Assistant who was despatched to forward materials from Oswego.

Captain La Force, Mr Collins & Mr Peachey proceeded to Survey the North Shore of the Lake Ontario all the way to Niagara, having received my Instructions for that purpose. On the 11th Set out from Carleton Island for Quebec, where I arrived Yesterday.

I have the Honor to be
with the greatest respect
Your Excellency's
most Obedient &
most humble Servant
Samuel Holland

(Duplicate)

Return of Work done in
the Engineer's Department
at Niagara & its Dependts.
between 25th. Decr. 1782 &
24th. June 1783 inclusive

Sir — Niagara 26th June 1783 —

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I have the honor of transmiting to your Excellency the Coppy of a letter I had from Major Depeyster dated the 18th Instant with its inclosure I also take the liberty of transmiting for your perusal the Coppy of my letter to Major Depeyster, in hopes you will not disapprove of my ideas about the Indians, as far as my Experience in such matters can guide me, I have remarked that indian Councills never answer any good Purpose but that of Creating a Certain Expence, and therefore to be avoided as much as Can be; Consistent with Prudence; Upon that ground I have taken the liberty to give the Major my own Opinion freely, tho I doubt not but he Understands indian Management Much Better than I do —

I am also to acquaint your Excellency that the Particulars for the reduction to take Place in the Naval department, the Particulars of which of which were to be Communicated by Capt Schanks, is not as yet Come to hand, when it does; I Shall in Consequence of your Excellencys orders take care that it Shall be Punctually executed in this district —

Your Excellencys observation in your Letter of the 22d May is must Just, respecting the transaction said to have happened at the Standing Stone Village last October, its exceedingly wrong that such matters should be exagerated, as when discovered they never fail to recoil, but I can with truth declare that they are Mentioned by me in the Very express words of the

General Haldimand

Letters of Mr McKee the Superintendant that have been transmitted to me by Major DePeyster

I am sorry the Iron Works for the Mills have not been sent up in the Spring, since it will be the means of obliging us, to furnish the farmers with provision, to prevent their starving as they cannot make use of their own wheat

I have the honor to be most respectfully
Sir
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

From 1783.

B. Genl. Maclean

26th June Recd. 9th July.

From [illegible]

(Copy) Niagara 26th June 1783

Sir

I am honored with your Letter of the 18th inst. inclosing the Copy of a Letter from Mr. McKee the Indian Superintendant to Major Wall Commandant of Fort Neilson, which I shall transmit to the Commander in Chief. I had a Letter from His Excellency the Commander in Chief dated 26th May, acquainting me Sir John Johnson was coming up immediately to quiet the minds of the Indians, and I dare say he will bring up such supplies of Cloathing as will answer every reasonable demand that the Indians ought to have, and such as will acquit us very honorably to them for what is due. There cannot be a doubt but the Indians will know the Boundaries, for we have Plenty of People amongst ourselves, that are sufficiently officious and vicious, to do all the mischief they can — We have some of them here, and it would be very surprizing if you had not People of the same Stamp at Detroit.

You certainly must be a much better judge than me of the Proper method of managing Indians, and of the propriety of calling a Council of four Chiefs of each Nation to meet at Detroit: I own that I have followed a different method, for I sent Officers to the different Nations advising them to pay no attention to any Stories from bad Birds, only to mind the Meſsages sent them from here — that at present we could only tell them Peace was made, but how soon we had the particulars from Authority we should call them together, and let them know the Particulars, and I preſsed it

very

From

Lieut. Col. De Peyster
27th June Recd. 10th July
Lt. Wilmot

Sir Niagara June 28th 1782

[illegible] It scarcely [illegible] to have [illegible]
to behave with any [illegible]
[illegible]
and [illegible]
[illegible]
let me, [illegible]
was [illegible]
[illegible]
had arrived at [illegible] Creek from the Virginians.
with messages and [illegible], and that [illegible] to
that Aaron of the Mohawk Chiefs, would attend at [illegible]
Creek to hear them. This was no message to
Colonel Butler, tho we had two Indian Officers on
the spot, Colonel Butler set off this day, with two
Indian Officers, a [illegible] of twelve men, One Barrell
of Rum a Tierce of Flour & a Barrel of Pork, to be
present, and act accordingly, with [illegible] of the
Rum Barrell I have little doubt of his being able to sett
aside any message from the Virginians; there is no
bounds to the Effrontery & impudence of these new
upstrats; a Canting Hipocritical Yankee, is a more
dangerous Antagonist, than all the sons of Loyola;
It is astonishing, that these People should have the
assurance to come into this Country, without their
having Communicated their intentions to your
Excellency, and having Proper Authority for such

General Haldimand

Expeditions, I am told they are Indians, that been in the Interest of Congress during the War Colonel Butler and myself are of Opinion if there are any White men Among them, to get the Consent of the Chiefs to bring them in here, and Send them to be kept at Carleton Island, till we hear from Your Excellency, to Send the Indians back, and Send an Escort with them at Some distance from our frontiers, telling them that they are not to come among our Indians, without having the Sanction of Your Excellency, of Congress, and when that is the case; we Shall be Glad to See them. Should they be all Indians we Shall Send them all back —

These Sir are the ideas that have Occurr'd to Colonel Butler and myself, and we are in hopes they will meet with Your Excellencys Approbation

The Americans no doubt will Say that they Cannot prevent their Indians, coming to See our indians, but this is all a farce, if they had not Some Sinister design, they would in an Open and a Public Manner, let Your Excellency know their Intentions with respect to the Indians. I Shall request to have Your Excellencies directions on this head, that I may Act Accordingly —

I have the honor to be, most respectfully

Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

1783.

B. Genl. Maclean

28th June - Recd. 9th July

answered

The enclosed is this instant come to hand — I have dispatched Mr. Elliot to fetch in this favorite of Congreſs, least he do mischief among the Indians.

(Signed) Ar. S. De Peyster

Brigr. Genl. Maclean.

Detroit the 28 June 1793

Sir

[illegible]

their lands, and, to request a supply of goods
so long promised them. The inclosed
will give your Excellency some information
with respect to the Wabash Indians, whom
having the Council was very important
[illegible] was not proper to be [illegible]
to prepare [illegible] the Chiefs [illegible]
and [illegible] they have
concluded with the [illegible]
[illegible]
I have [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
to Your Excellency &c. I have the pleasure to
hope that orders are on the way [illegible]

how I am to act, in what in all probability will be a most critical situation.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Humble & most
Obed^t Serv^t
A^t. S. DePeyster

His Excellency The Command^r in Chief

PRES. DICKINSON TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1783

Sir,

Yesterday Evening the Soldiers from Lancaster began their March for that Place, under the Command of their Officers. Those in the Barracks behave very quietly, & are desirous of being dismist.

Colonel Humpton informs me that Letters were sent by the principal authors of the late Disturbance, to excite General Armand's Legion and Colonel Moylan's Regiment, to join in the Mutiny. The present Disposition of those Troops I know not; But I expect to receive immediate advice of any movement of Importance among them, which I shall communicate to Congress.

I am Sir, your very h'ble servt.,

JOHN DICKINSON,

Philadelphia, July 27th, 1783.

Mr. Thomson, who does the Honor of charging himself with the Letter, will deliver to Congress a Copy of the last proposals of the soldiers to Council, & of the Act of Council thereon.

His Excellency, the President of Congress.

LIEUT. COL. A. S. DEPEYSTER TO MAJOR DOUGLAS, 1783.

Detroit, June 29th, 1783.

Sir,

Your letter addressed to Mr. Elliot has been brought in here open by an Indian, & delivered to me. I therefore dispatch Mr. Elliott into the Indian country to meet you & conduct you to this place. I desire therefore for your own safety that you may not enter into any negotiations with the Indians till your arrival here, where a Gen'l Council with the Chiefs of the several Nations is at present called, therefore any deviation from the measures already taken may be detrimental to the whole.

I am, Sir your most obed. Servt.,

A. S. DEPEYSTER,
Lieut. Col., Commanding Detroit.

Major Douglass.

(Copy.)

At a Meeting with a few Chiefs of the Six Nations and their Allies at Tosioha June 30th 1783 —— 113

Present

Lieut. Colonel John Butler Depy Agt Indn Affairs
Lieuts Bowen and Dachstader
Mr Wilkinson Secretary
Mr Nicholas Stevens Interpreter —

Tiaguanda spoke, and went through the usual ceremony, welcoming Colonel Butler &ca to their Village

Colonel Butler then returned the usual Compliments and acquainted them that Captain Aaron a Mohawk Chief had informed him with their Message to the Chiefs of Loyal Village &ca That those Chiefs were now ready to attend their Council Fire, agreeable to request; that himself & the Officers with him were also come for that purpose, as he thought that his presence might be necessary, to give them every assistance or advice that lay in his power on such an Occasion. ——

Tiaguanda then spoke as follows ——

Brother Our Council Fire being kindled at this time, was occasioned by an information of some Delewares (in the Enemys Interest) being on their way to this Village with a message from the Virginians to the Six Nations; but have since found by a Messenger from Kadaragaras that they are a few Delewares (in our Interest) sent by a Chief calld the Pipes, near Sandusky, but an accident happening one of the party, who was unfortunately scalded so bad that he died in a short time after whose death occasioned a delay of the others, & prevented their attendance at the Council as upon, but the

purpose

purport of their buſineſs was to ask our advice, how, they our Younger Brothers should conduct themselves, as they understood that a peace was concluded upon between the King their Father, and the Americans, that a Flag had already been in their Country treating for Prisoners. —

Brother We have also to inform you that Two Young Men (Oneidas) without advice from any of our Chiefs, have been too, & just returned, from Canowarshare, who brought some very disagreeable accounts from that part of the Country, part of which we will now relate to you, which has occasioned much uneaſineſs among our People; shortly after the Arrival of those Two Young Men at Canowarshare, they saw a party of the Americans in Company with the Oneidas Who together informed the former Two, that they intended to take poſseſsion of all the Lands belonging to the Indians, and occupy the same themselves, and should the Indians make the least resistance on the Occasion, they then would collect their Troops, fall upon the Indians, & destroy man, Woman & Child. ——

Different Chiefs then spoke, and expreſsed their wishes to put off the General Council Two Days Longer in Order to wait for the Meſsenger from Sandusky, that Colonel Butler might hear their Story, and that of the Two Oneidas, (from themselves) at one and the same time, They also expreſsed a great desire for Colonel Butlers private opinion Relative to the Enemys intentions on the Six Nation Country &ca ———

Colonel Butler then spoke

Brother Some time ago I stopped your Ears with a Belt of Wampum, that you should not attend to any Idle flying Reports, but wait with patience untill you heard from the King your Father, and the Superintendant General who is daily expected.—

Brothers

I am sorry to find that you do not altogether act the Chiefs or Great Men, you are too willingly led astray by vain reports, which is neither attended by a Letter from the Americans, or Wampum from the Oneidas to confirm the Truth.— Therefore I request that those Ideas may immediately be buried, and no more thought of, but let your Women again return and take care of their Corn fields; I also recommend to you to send two or three Chiefs to Canowarohare & tell the Oneidas, not to send any more Idle tales among you, that if the United States, or themselves have any thing to say to the Six Nations, the same should be communicated in writing by one or more of their Great Men in future.—

Should the Superintendant General be arrived at Niagara on my return, or any accounts interesting the Indians, I shall dispatch a Runner to acquaint you with the same.—

At a Meeting with a few
Chiefs of the Six Nations
gra – Tosioha 30th June
1783

No 15

Council held at Tesioha
the 30th June 1783
by Lt Col. Butler with a few
Chiefs of the Six Nations —

Extract of a Council held with the Chiefs & Warriors of the Six Nation Indians and their Confederates at the Council Fire kindled at the Onandago Settlement

Tosicka 2nd July 1783

Abeel a Seneca Chief Spoke as follows

Brothers

"Two of your young men (Oneidas) went from their Village without the advice of any our Chiefs to Canawaroharre (a Village settled by some Oneidas who have acted in favor of the Americans during this War) as a Visit to their Relations and Acquaintances. Shortly after their arrival Forty of the Americans came to the Village & informed they were on their way to view the Six Nation Indian Country and to build a House at Onandago for General Schuyler, next morning the Chiefs came and saluted the two Young men in the usual manner, after which they expreſsed their sorrow that the Chiefs of the Six Nations did not attend a Council with General Schuyler last Spring agreeable to his request. They then repeated General Schuyler's Speech in Council as follows"

Brothers

I am directed by Congreſs to call you together and inform you that Peace is at last agreed upon between the King of Great Britain, France, Spain and the Americans, the Great Spirit above has helped and given us ſucceſs, and with the aſsistance of France have conquired the King of England, we are now Masters of this Island and can dispose of the lands as we think proper, or most convenient to ourselves, that the King of England can never hereafter make the least claim to any part of it. At the Commencement of this War many of our people left us, some went to Niagara, and others to different places, where

the

where the Kings Troops lay, these people have forfeited every part of their lands and property to us for so doing, which must be a convincing proof that we are the Conquerors — At that time I requested the Six Nations to lay still, but no attention was paid to my advice, they therefore are now in the same Situation with these people who left us, their Lands forfeited in the same manner; as we are the Conquerors we claim the lands and properties of all the White people as well as the Indians who left and fought against us, We enquired of the King what he intended to do for the Indians, as we expected that he would have been very particular about them, he being the person who should have considered their Situation, but the King answered what can I do, nothing, you have conquered me, therefore do with them what You please — However it is not yet so bad with the Indians, as they can move acroſs the Lakes, them parts still belong to the King. I desire the Oneidas to acquaint the Chiefs &c of the Six Nations with what I have now said, and that they have no Aſsistance to expect from either the King or Congreſs in future All the Upper Posts are now our Property, and I expect to go in a short time to speak to the Six Nation Indians, & should they not meet and give me such Satisfaction, between this place & Fort Stanwix on my way up, I shall then prepare myself as a Warior, proceed through their Country, to humble their pride and make them my Prisoners &c I shall look upon the Oneidas & Cayugas in a more favorable light, than the other Nations as two of the Cayugas have been with me during the War. The Six Nations must not be stopped by any means whatever by Colonel Butler, and should he at any time fall into our hands he undoubtedly will be hanged.

Father

We are informed that instead of prosecuting the War, we are to give up our Lands to the Enemy which gives us great uneaſineſs, in endeavouring to aſsist you, it seems we have wrought our own Ruin

Colonel Butler then spoke

Brothers

I thank the Great Spirit for giving me an Opportunity of meeting you at this fire place and am happy to see you aſsembled here, I have taken particular notice of what has been said, and now expect the same attention from you.

Brothers

What you have heard from the Oneidas, I hope will not in the least Effect or alarm you, tho I cannot at present with a Certainty say that these Reports are false as we have had no particular Accounts from England, but I have every reason to expect the Superintendant General to be with you, as early as Circumstances will admit, who no doubt will have the certainty of every particular relative to this peace concerning the Indians — At the same Time I recommend to you, to send two or three Chiefs to Canawaroharre, and enquire why such meſsages have been sent you, I still remember my promise to you, on my arrival at Niagara in 1775 that I would share the Dangers and Fatigues of the War with you, I well knew the enemies intentions and came here to assist you, as well as the King your Father, and proposed to leave my Bones with yours. I am still of the same opinion, and will exert myself (with all the men under my Command) and assist you, should the Enemy approach and offer to disturb you or your Possessions, before we have proper and authentic Accounts from the King your Father

Extract of a Council held with
the Chiefs & Warriors of the Six
Nation Indians & their Confederates
at the Council fire Kindled at
the Onandago Settlement
Toricha 2d July 1783

BRITISH MUSEUM

Copy of a Letter from
Major De Peyster to
Brig.^r Gen^l. Maclean
dated 29^th. June 1783 at
Detroit. — —

BRITISH MUSEUM

A Council held with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nation Indians and their Confederates, at the Council Fire kindled at the Onendaga Settlement — Tonika 2d July 1783

Present
Lieut. Colonel Butler
Lieuts. Bowen, Dachstedder and Jacob Seeves
Mr. Wilkinson Secretary
Mr. Nichs. Stevens Interp.

Abeel a Seneca Chief Spoke as follows.

Brothers,

Two of our Young men (Oneidas) went from thier Village without the Advice of any of our Chiefs, to Canawarohare (a Village of the Oniedas who have acted in favor of the Americans during the war) on a Visit to thier Relations and Acquaintances. Shortly after thier arrival, Forty of the Americans came to the same Village & informed they were on thier way to view the Six Nation Indian Country and to Build a House at Onendaga for General Schuyler; next morning the Chiefs came & saluted the two young men in the usual manner; after which they expressed thier sorrow, that the Chiefs of the 6 Nations did not attend a Council with General Schuyler last spring agreeable to his Request. — They then Repeated General Schuyler's Speech in Council as follows. —

Brothers,

I am directed by Congress to call you together and inform you that Peace is at last agreed upon between the King of Great Britian, France, Spain and the Americans, the Great Spirit above has help'd and given us Success, and with the assistance of France have conquered the King of England, We are now Masters of this Island and can dispose of the lands as we think proper or most convenient to ourselves, that the King of England can never hereafter make the least Claim to any part of it. — At the Commencement of this War many of our people left us, some went to Niagara and others to different places where the Kings Troops lay, these people have Forfeite every part of thier Lands & Property to us for so doing, which must be a convincing proof that we are the Conquerers. — At that time I Requested the Six Nations to lay still, but no attention was paid to my advice, they therefore are now in the same situation with those people who left us, thier Lands forfieted in the same manner; as we are the Conquerers we claim the lands and property of all the white people as well as the Indians who left and fought against us — We enquired of the King what he intended to do for the Indians, as we expected that he woud have been very particular about them, he being the Person who sho have considered thier Situation; but the King answered what can I do, nothing, you have conquered me, therefore do with them what you please — However it is not yet so bad with the Indians, as they can move away the Lakes, them parts still belong to the King. — I desire you, the Brot to acquaint the Chiefs &ca of the Six Nations with what I have now and that they have no assistance to expect from either the King or Congress in future — All the Upper Posts are now our property, & I Expect to go in a short time to speak to the Six Nation Indians, and shou'd they not meet and give me full Satisfaction between this Place and Fort Stanwix on my way up, I shall then prepare myself as a Warrior, proceed through thier Country, to Humble thier Pride and make them my Prisoners &c — I shall look upon the Oniedas & Cayugas in a more favorable light, then the other Nation as two of the Cayugas have been with me during the War. The Six Nations must not be stopt by any means whatever by Colonel Butler, and shoud he at any time fall into our hands he undoubtedly will be hanged. —

Colonel Butler then spoke

Brothers

I thank the Great Spirit for giveing me an Opportuni of meeting you at this fire place and am happy to see you a here; I have taken particular Notice of what has been said, and now the same attention from you

Brothers, What you have heard from the Oneidas, I hope will not in the least Effect or alarm you, tho I cannot at present with a Certainty say that these Reports are false; as we have had no particular Accounts from England, but I have every Reason to expect the Superintendent General to be with you, as early as Circumstances will admit, who no doubt will have the certainty of every particular relative to this Peace concerning Indians,— At the same time I Recommend to you, to send two or three Chiefs to Canawaroharre & enquire why such meſsages have been sent you, I still Remember my promise to you, on my arrival at Niagara in 1775 that I woud share the Dangers and Fatigues of the War with you, I will have the same intentions and came here to aſsist you, as well as the King your Father, and proposed to leave my Bones with yours, I am still of the same oppinion, and will Exert myself (with all the men under my Command) and aſsist you, shoud the Enemy approach and Offer to Disturb you or your Poſseſsions, before we have proper and Authentic Accounts from the King your Father,—

Brigadier General Maclean promised you his protection in Council last spring which I have no doubt, but he will be ready to fullfill when Required on such an Occasion.— If you think it neceſsary to send two or three Chiefs to Canawaroharres, I shoud first be Glad to be acquainted with the meſsage you mean to send —

[illegible] held with the
Six Nations Indians & their
Confederates — Quebec 2d July 1779

Indian Council
No. 5

Sir Niagara 3d July 1783.

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I had a Letter from the Adjutant General dated the Second of June, informing, that previous to my application for the Vacant Capt. Lieutenancy of the 84th Regiment in favour of the Senior Lieut. Your Excellency had promised it, I hope however will think that it was my duty as Comanding Officer of the Regiment, when Vacancies happen to recommend the Senior Officers of the Regiment to your Excellency, Especially when the Conduct of those Senior Officers merit such recommendation; and Upon that Ground I beg leave to Mention, that Ensign Pringle is undisputable the oldest Ensign in the Army in Canada;

Your Excellency being Under promise for the Captain Lieutenancy of the 84th Permit me to Supplicate Your Excellency, that you will be so good as grant to the Senior Lieut of the 84th, the Lieutenancy that will become Vacant, by the promotion of the Gentleman to be appointed Captain Lieut. to the 84, Your Excellency knows that such removes are, and have been frequent in the Army at all times, and in deed are in themselves Just. There are but very few Lieuts in the Army of Equal Standing with the Senior Lieut of the 84th I belive only four older, so that his Coming in the Junior Lieut, into whatever Regiment, the Capt. Lieut of the 84th Comes from, can be no hardship whatever on that Regiment. I beg your Excellencys Pardon for this trouble, but as I am only doing my duty, I am sure of your forgiveness, and I have the honor to be respectfully

Your Excellencys
Most Obedient, and
most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

General Haldimand

A Council held with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nation Indians and their Confederates, at the Council Fire kindled at the Onondaga Settlement.

Tosioha 2 July 1783.

Present

Lieut Colonel Butler

Lieutenants { Bowen
Dockstader
Jacob Servos

Mr Wilkinson Secretary

Mr J. Stevens Interpreter.

Abeel a Seneca Chief spoke as follows.

Brothers ..... Two of our Young Men (Oneidas) went from their Village without the adv of any of our Chiefs, to Canawaroghare (a Village ſettled by some Oneidas who have acted in favor of the Americans during this War) as a Viſit to their Relations and Acquaintances – Shortly after their arrival, Forty of the Americans came to the ſame Village and inform'd they were on their way to view the Six Nation Indian Country, and to build a Houſe at Onondago for General Schuyler – next morning the Chiefs came and Saluted the two Young Men in the usual manner, after which they expreſsed their Sorrow that the Chiefs of the Six Nations did not attend a Council with General Schuyler last Spring agreeable to his request. They then repeated General Schuyler's Speech in Council, as follows –

Brothers ..... "I am directed by Congreſs to call you together, and inform you that "Peace is at last agreed upon between the Kings of Great Britain, France, Spain and/

SCHUYLER PAPERS

"and the Americans — The Great Spirit above has helped and given us ſucceſs, and with
"the aſsistance of France have conquered the King of England — We are now Masters of this
"Island, and can diſpoſe of the Lands as we think proper or most convenient to ourſelves —
"That the King of England can never hereafter make the least claim to any part of it — At the
"commencement of this War many of our People left us, some went to Niagara and others to
"different places where the Kings Troops lay; theſe People have forfeited every part of their
"Lands and Property to us for so doing, which must be a convincing proof that we are the
"Conquerors — At that time I requeſted the Six Nations to lay still and not interfere in this
"War; but no attention was paid to my advice, they therefore are now, in the ſame ſituation with
"thoſe People who left us, their Lands forfeited in the ſame manner — As we are the Con-
"querors we claim the Lands and Property of all the White People as well as the Indians,
"who have left and fought against us — We enquired of the King what he intended to do
"for the Indians, as we expected that he would have been very particular about them, He
"being the perſon who shou'd have conſidered their ſituation; but the King anſwered, What
"can I do? nothing. You have conquered me, therefore do with them what you pleaſe.

"However, it is not yet so bad with the Indians, as they can move acroſs the Lakes,
"thoſe parts ſtill belong to the King.— I deſire you (the Oneida's) to acquaint the Chiefs &c.
"of the Six Nations with what I have now ſaid, and that they have no aſsistance to expect from
"either the King or Congreſs in future — All the upper Posts are now our property, and I
"expect to go in a ſhort time to ſpeak to the Six Nation Indians, and should they not meet and
"give me full ſatisfaction between this place and Fort Stanwix on my way up, I shall then
"prepare myſelf as a Warrior, proceed through their Country to humble their pride, and make
"them my Priſoners &c. — I shall look upon the Oneidas & Cayugas in a more favorable
"light than the other Nations, as two of the Cayugas have been with me during the War —
"The Six Nations must not by any means whatever be stopt by Colonel Butler, and should

"He at any time fall into our hands, he undoubtedly will be hanged"–

When this Speech was delivered to Brigadier General Maclean, He contradicted it flatly, and declared to the Six Nations, that it was false and fabricated by Some designing bad People – That he could aſsure them, such a Speech never had been made by General Schuyler; and that he never authorized any other Perſon to [illegible] for him; And he (Brig.^r Gen^l. Maclean) could aſsure the Six Nations, that he did not believe the United States had any intention of driving the Indians out of their Country, that being a meaſure contrary to their own Interest – and that they were not to believe any ſuch idle Stories, but shut their Eyes against such designing bad People – To listen only to what he would tell them, and he ſhould always tell them the truth –

I tranſmitted General Schuyler a Copy of this from Albany on the 2 of August 178

E Douglaſs.

A Council held with the Chiefs & Warriors of the Six Nation Indians & their Confederates, at Tosiola 2d. July 1783.

No 2.

SEC'Y ARMSTRONG TO THE SHERIFFS, 1783.

Philadelphia, July 30th, 1783.

Sir,

I have the directions of Council to desire you forthwith to take effectual measures for apprehending and securing a certain ——— Nagel, late Serjeant of the third Pennsylvania Regiment, who, it is said, is gone from hence to the County of Berks. He is charged with having excited the late disturbances among the Soldiery in this City. Council depend much on your exertions in this Business, and request you to conduct it with as much secrecy as possible; should he be so fortunate as to secure him, you will immediately inform Council thereof, when they will take further order respecting him.

I am, Sir, your obedient & very humble servt.,

JOHN ARMSTRONG, Jr., Sec'y.

To the Sheriff of the County of Berks.

A similar Letter written to the Sheriff of the County of Berks to apprehend Captains Henry Carberry and James Sullivan of the Penna. Line.

CONFERENCE WITH INDIANS, 1783.

A Council held with the Chiefs & Warriors of the Six Nations & their Confederates at the Council Fire kindled at the Onondago Settlement. Iosioha, July 2d, 1783.

Present.

Lieut. Coll. Butler.

Lieutenants, Bowen, Docksteder, Jacob Servois.

Mr. Wilkinson, Sec'y.

Mr. N. Stephens, Interpreter.

Abeel, a Seneca Chief, spoke as follows:

Brothers, Two of our young men (Oneidas,) went from their Village without the advice of any of our Chiefs, to Canawarohare (a Village settled by some Oneidas who have acted in favor of the Americans during this war) as a visit to their relations & acquaintances. Shortly after their arrival 40 of the Americans came to the same Village & informed they were on their way to view the 6 Nation Indian's Country & to build a House at Onondago for Gen. Schuyler. Next morning the Chiefs came and saluted the two young men in the usual manner, after which they expressed their sorrow that the Chiefs of the Six Nations did not attend a Council with Gen. Schuyler last spring, agreeable to his request. They then reported Gen. Schuyler's speech in Council as follows:

Brothers, "I am directed by Congress to call you together & inform you that Peace is at last agreed on between the Kings of Great Britain, France, Spain and the Americans. The great spirit above has helped & given us success, & with the assistance of France have conquered the King of England. We are now Masters of this Island & can dispose of the lands as we think proper or most convenient to ourselves. That the King of England can never hereafter make the least claim to any part of it. At the commencement of this war many of our People left us, some went to Niagara & others to different places where the King's troops lay; these people have forfeited every part of their lands & property to us for so doing, which must be a convincing proof that we are the conquerors. At that time I requested the Six Nations to lay still & not interfere in this war; but no attention was paid to my advice, they therefore are now in the same situation with those people who left us, their lands forfeited in the same manner. As we are the Conquerors we claim the lands & property of all the white people as well as the Indians who have left & fought against us. We enquired of the King what he intended to do for the Indians, as we expected that he would have been very particular about them. He being the person who should have considered their situation; but the King answered, *What can I do? Nothing! You have conquered me therefore do with them what you please.*"

"However, it is not yet so bad with the Indians, as they can move across the Lakes, those parts still belong to the King. I desire you (the Oneidas) to acquaint the Chiefs, &ca., of the six Nations with what I have now said, and that they have no assistance to expect from either the King or Congress in future. All the upper Posts are now our property, and I expect to go in a short time to speak to the six Nation Indians, & should they not meet & give me full satisfaction between this place & Fort Stanwix on my way up I shall then prepare myself as a Warrior, proceed thro' their Country to humble their pride, & make them my prisoners, &ca. I shall look upon the Oneidas & Cayagas in a more favorable light than the other Nations, as two of the Cayagas have been with me during the war. The Six Nations must not by any means whatever, be stopt by Col^{l} Butler, & should he at any time fall into our hands, he undoubtedly will be hanged."

When this speech was delivered to Brig^{n} Gen^{l} M^{c}Lean, he contradicted it flatly & declared to the Six Nations, that it was false & fabricated by some designing bad people—That he could assure them, such a speech never had been made by Gen^{l} Schuyler, & that he never authorized any other person to make it for him; and he (Brigadier Gen^{l} M^{c}Lean) could assure the Six Nations, the he did not believe the United States had any intention of driving the Indians out of their Country, that being a measure contrary to their own interest, & that they were not to believe such idle stories, but shut their eyes against such designing bad people; To listen only to what he would tell them, & he should always tell them the truth.

Transmitted Gen^{l} Schuyler, a copy of this from Albany of the 2^{d} of August, 1783.

E. DOUGLASS.

(Copy.)

SECR'Y. ARMSTRONG TO THOMAS SCOTT, 1783.

Sec$^{ry's}$ Office, Pa.

Sir,

By order of Council, I enclose a Copy of a letter lately received from the Governor of Virginia; as the trustees of the peace of Pennsylvania, & the rights of its Citizens, Council feel themselves obliged to attend to every complaint which may be offered against those who are entrusted with the execution of Her laws, however improper the character of complaint may be. It is the object therefore of this letter to enquire into the grounds of the charges exhibited by Mr. Harrisson, & to request your report upon the Subject as soon as possible.

I am, Sir, with much Respect, Yours, &c.

J. A.,
j^{r} Sec^{ry}.

Indorsed,
1783, July 2nd.

SECR'Y. ARMSTRONG TO JOHN LUKENS, S. G., 1783.

In Council, July 2^{d}, 1783.

Sir,

In consequence of some late information that combinations have been formed in this City, & elsewhere to engross large tracts of the best part of that land which has been assigned by law for the redemption of the depreciation certificates and plans have been laid to conceal the relative value of the lots, &c. to be laid out by you, &c., &c. I have the directions of Council to express at once their orders & desire that in the execution of your business all abuse of trust may be guarded against with the utmost care & assiduity, & that the late instructions of Council upon this subject be strictly adher'd to. I need not suggest how much the hopes, wishes & intentions of government would be defeated by a successful combination of this kind.

°27

Quebec February 14th 1783.

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Sir

Since I had the Honor of writing to You
is Majesty's Sloop Cockatrice, I have received Letters from
uy Carleton, of which Copies are inclosed. The Situation
ffairs had determined me (previous to any Information
my conditional Leave of Absence being superceded) to
nquish the Intention of returning to Europe last Autumn
d I wait with the greatest Impatience for His Majesty's
mmands in consequence of my Letters upon that Subject.

I find by Letters from Niagara that the Rebels
stinately persist in their Incursions upon the Ohio,
ing lately cut off the lower Shawanese Town, and
iscriminately massacred its Inhabitants of all Ages
nd Sexes. I have the Honor, Sir, to inclose for your Information
opy of Brigadier General Maclean's Letter, and a Speech
livered to Him by the Six Nations in consequence of the
uelties committed by the Rebels on this and former
casions, with His Answer to it. As sensible of the
fficulty we shall find in restraining the Resentment of
e Indians, as I am of the Justice of their Claim for our
sistance in their Attacks upon the Enemy, I have
structed Brigadier Maclean not only to refuse such Aid
all Offensive Measures but to employ every Means
divert the Indians from undertaking them themselves,
t the same Time promising them every Assistance

and

Right Honorable Thomas Townshend.

and Support in my Power to oppose the Incursions of
Enemy, and to protect their Country, the establishing
Themselves in which, has been ever since the Project
creating a Government upon the Ohio, a favorite Obje
with the Americans, particularly the back Settlers of
Pensilvania, Maryland and Virginia, a restless, dan
People, encouraged and supported by Speculators of W
and Consequence in the Country. — If the Rebels are
not restrained from taking Possession of that valuable
Tract of Country which by Treaty is the undoubted
Property of the Indians, they will in a very few Years
establish themselves so firmly that upon a future
Occasion they will find but little difficulty in dispo
the Indians and making themselves Masters of the
Upper Posts. I regret that the Rebels instead of seconding
the humane Intentions of the King and British Nation
continue to increase the difficulties which His Majesty
Officers have to encounter in their Endeavours to preven
Offensive Operations on the Part of the Indians. — Altho
determined never to recede from the most punctual
Obedience to the Orders of my Royal Master, I am fully
satisfied of the indispensable Necessity for keeping the
Indians attached to the British Cause knowing that
Their Alliance, we have hitherto, with an Handful of
Troops, kept Possession of the Upper Posts, and that with
their cordial Assistance it will be utterly impossible to
maintain that Country — therefore Policy as well

ll as Gratitude, demands of us an Attention to
e Sufferings and future Situation of these unhappy
eople, involved on our Accounts, in the Miseries of
r with an implacable Enemy.

I am in a great Measure ignorant of the Events
hich have taken Place, and entirely so of any that may
looked for in the Southward – Flying Reports, and Rebel
ews Papers say that Charles Town is evacuated – the
port mentioned in the P.S. of Sir Guy Carleton's last
tter that the French Troops were going to the West
dies has also circulated here from the same Authority
annot pretend to judge of the Truth of these Reports
how they may affect this Province – I can only
sure You, Sir, that no Vigilance or Attention shall
e wanting on my Part to provide for its Security in
ll Events – In the mean Time, I have the Pleasure to
quaint You that, as far as Niagara, it is in perfect
ranquility.

I have communicated to Sir Guy Carleton
the Enormities of the Rebels in the Indian Country, and the
Resolutions of the Indians in Consequence thereof.

I have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect
Sir
Your most Obedient and
most Humble Servant

Fred: Haldimand

Quebec 14 Feby 1783.

Governor Haldimand

No. 27

Rd 3 July

Ditto

By Lt Col. Farrington

(Four inclosures)

Copy of Letters from General Sir Guy Carleton to General Haldimand, Received 5th December 1782, by Land

New York October 26th 1782.

Recent Intelligence from Philadelphia Expresses that the Expedition under Major General er is laid aside in consequence of the Light Troops and Indians upon the Frontiers being uited. — The French Army broke up their Encampment near Verplanks Point 21st October — they are now upon their March Easterward — General Washington lso preparing to decamp from Verplanks. — (Signed) G. C.

New York 1st November —

I had acquainted Your Excellency by Letter of the 6th Septr That I had no Purpose passing into Canada, and could not foresee any Event that would bring me there — n now, Sir, to acquaint by directions from Home that every View of that Sort laid aside, and that no Occasion whatever can bring me into Your Province that the Purpose therefore of a Provisional Leave of absence has now Ceased. French Troops have been for Some Time Encamped with the Americans, ve now Separated from them, and have Marched towards the Connecticut iver with what Ultimate View is not yet known; possibly to Winter the Eastern Provinces, but You, Sir, will be of Course upon Your Guard inst all Events — (Signed) G. C.

P. S. Colonel Carleton arrived the 27th Octr — there is no Vacancy for Him r, He Means to go to England and return to Canada in the Spring as ly as the Season will permit —— General Riedesel's request respecting Brunswickers Shall be Complyed With as far as Depends on Me.

New York 12th November

I have received Your Letter 7th October this day, and am to acquaint You at the 1st Division of Transports from Quebec arrived Yesterday in this ort. —— (Signed) G. C.

Please turn over

P.S.

Since the above was written, I have received Your Letters by Captain Burnet, from the 5th & the 11th October inclusive — I have just heard th the French Troops are going to Embark for the West Indies.

G.C.

opy

Niagara December 11th 1782.

At a Meeting of the principal Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations.
esent Lieut. Col. Buttler and Mr Douse Deputy Agents.

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Brig. General Maclean
Lieut. Colonel Dundas

Captains	Mompesson	Kings Regt.	Chiefs	Tioquanda, a Speaker of the Onandagoes
	Forbes Coote	34th Regt.		Captain Brant Aaron — Mohawks
	Powell Tice	Ind. Departmt.		Oseronda — Oneidas
	Ferrot	Royal Artillery		
Lieutents.	Arden	34th Regt.		
	Bowen Dockstader Young	Ind. Departmt.		

Tioquanda a Speaker for the six Nations, spoke as follows with a Belt.

We thank the great Spirit for this opportunity of meeting the General nd the other Officers here assembled on this particular occasion, as it gives us an opportunity of laying fore Him and Colonel Buttler, the result of our deliberations in a late Council of the Chiefs of the x Nations held at one of our Villages, in consequence of Intelligence we received from our Brother e Shawanese; informing us of their late great Misfortune — As we are deeply interested in hearing t the lower Shawanese Town has been cut off by the perfidious cruel Rebels, at a time when they nd we were forbid to go to War, and to cease from all Hostilities, at the particular desire of the great neral of our Brother the King of England and upon our agreeing to obey the orders of your General, the perfidious Rebels have taken the advantage of our security and inactivity, and have come ke thieves in the Night, when the Shawanese Warriors were all out at their Hunting grounds, urrounded one of their Towns and Murdered all the Women and Children; We therefore think it proper o acquaint you, that you may let the great General know, that we can remain no longer idle and see ur Brethren and People destroyed by these Cruel Rebels. Since the Ax they now have met with ay be our turn next, if we do not go to War; We therefore hope that you will request the great eneral, in our Name, to assist us heartily in sharpening our Ax.

Gave a Belt

We have already mentioned unto you the Cruelties committed by the Rebels upon ur Younger Brothers the Shawanese, and we are persuaded that there is no reliance to be had on the aith or Promises of the Rebels, whose unparalleled cruelties have lately destroyed the poor innocent Moravian Indians their near Neighbours, and who never went to War against them or any other erson; yet under the Cloak of Friendship, They murdered them in cold blood, and afterwards reduced their Bones to Ashes that the Murder might not be discovered.

In the Year 1779, when the Rebels attacked the Villages of the Six Nations, the Cruelty of the Rebels was equally great; for when they came to the Onandaga Town (of which I was one of the princi Chiefs) they put to death all the Women and Children, excepting some of the Young Women that the carried away for the use of their soldiers, and were put to death in a more shameful and scandalous man Yet these Rebels call themselves Christians. We have been so often and so repeatedly deceived by Rebels, that we can no longer trust their Words; and we look upon ourselves to be much in the sam Predicament with our Brothers, the Shawanese; And that we may suffer soon by our idleness inactivity; as we find by sad Experience, that the Enemy profit by our laying still and following advice of the General —— And we also labour under the greatest disadvantages in not being supplied as usual with Powder and Shot, and other needful Articles, necessary to go to War with We are likewise in a much more disagreeable situation than the King's Troops: for if they are taken Prisoners, the Rebels don't put them to death; But we have no mercy to expect, if taken, as the will put us to death immediately, and will not even spare our Women and Children. And whi we remain idle, the Rebels can easily march into our Villages; whereas if we take a more acti part, we might prevent them, by carrying the War into their own Country — We should preven them from Murdering us in the Night, and Acting with so much cruelty and inhumanity tho' they call themselves Christians, they are more cruel than the Indians who are not so. — We are therefore resolved, that in future we shall act on their own principle, and shew them no lenity or Mercy: and we hope for assistance from the great General, and that he will n find fault with us for following the example of the Rebels; and altho' we have hitherto in gener refrained from retaliating their Cruelties, except in the instance of Colonel Crauford the prin Agent in the Murder of the innocent Moravians: and he was burn't with justice, and ac cording to our Customs; Yet we make no doubt but the Rebels will imagine, that our not goi to War proceeds from fear; We therefore mean to send a Flag to the Rebels and to acquaint them, that we shall in future follow the examples set us by themselves; and desire that the gre General might be acquainted, that they expect his assistance against their Enemies the Re whom they were sure had resolved to destroy all the Indians.

Brigadier General Maclean then spoke, by Colonel Butler as Interpreter, told them that he heard what they had said, and would think of it, and give them an Answer next morning, therefore desired them to meet him again for that purpose.

Brig:
Gen
Demand
1782

nd
1783.

should the Rebels attempt to come into your Country, in that case, I have orders to shar
your Ax, and not permit it to become dull. Brothers .... I shall endeavo
supply your wants as much as poſsible, and it is my Orders so to do; And I can aſsu
that it is not the General's fault, or any neglect of mine, that you have not been supp
as usual. The Presents intended for you arriving so late from England, made it impos
for His Excellency to order them up sooner; and that nothing but the contrary Winds ha
prevented the two Veſsels, which I had ordered to return from Carleton Island with the re
der of the Presents destined for your use; could prevent me from being able to supply
your wants. With respect to your Situation being worse than Ours; in some deg
that is very true; but in general, it is not so. There are now Men upon this ground, wh
situation is exactly similar to yours, with respect to the Rebels; and in some degree, worse;
of their Friends have been put to death, and they have been obliged to take banishment, forsake th
Country, and leave all their property behind them. Brothers your situation
as good as it has been for some time past, you are still strong, and I have orders to tell yo
that you shall be well supported, provided you don't allow yourselves to be surprized. The
Enemy cannot come into any of your Villages easily, without being discovered. They live at
great distance from you, and if you act agreeable to the Character you have hitherto supp
it is not in their power to proceed two days March with a Body of Troops, without your dis
covering them; And in that case I doubt not but, with our mutual Strength, we shall be
able to make them pay dear for the attempt.

Brothers .... I must request and entreat that you will not follow the Examp
of Barbarity and Cruelty committed by your Enemies on your Women and Children, as I am sur
it would be very displeasing to your great Father the King and to your Brother the General
and I believe that your great succeſs against your Enemy, must convince you that the
humanity shewn by most of your Warriors to their Women and Children, numbers of whom
you have brought in Prisoners, is much more pleasing to the Great Spirit above than the
Cruelty committed by your Enemies, who improperly call themselves Christians. and as it
has been constantly recommended to you by your great Father the King not to bring a
blush in his face by acting contrary to his method of fighting, by killing Women and
Children; I therefore hope you will still continue to act with the same humanity.
I shall certainly let the Commander in Chief know your desire of having a number of
Red-Coats to join you early in the Spring, in order to carry the War into the Enemies
Country, and prevent them from coming into yours; and I doubt not but I shall have his
Answer before the season of the Year will admit of any movement of that kind to take
place, and I shall acquaint you with his Sentiments. —

y Letter from B. Genl. Maclean to His Excellency Genl. Haldimand.
d Niagara 16th. Decr. 1782.

Sir

I think it my duty to inform your Excellency t the Six Nations having heard of the Attack made by Rebels on the Shawnese Villages, held a Council of their ncipal Chiefs at the Mohawk Village, without acquainting ut. Colonel Butler or myself with their Intentions. – They afterwards nt a deputation desiring to have a Council at Niagara to quaint me with what they had to propose, that it might transmitted to your Excellency; and they most earnestly treat, and request, that You may be pleased to send them nAnswer as soon as may be possible, so that it may rive here early in February, that being the proper time r them to act. – The Substance of their deliberations I have e Honor herewith to transmit to your Excellency.

I understood Joseph Brant was not pleased at the Chiefs had not resolved to go to War in all Events, nce whatever might be the Orders your Excellency had ceived from the King (which He said no doubt You would mply with) that their Situation was very different, & ery deplorable – that they have to do with a treacherous, uel, Enemy, resolved to destroy the Indians at all Events. at when any of the Kings Troops are taken, they are eated as Prisoners of War, but when Indians were taken ey were immediatly put to death cruelly; that He herefore hoped your Excellency would have the Humanity t to tie up their Hands, but give them Leave to Act

in

act in their own Defence.

The two Indians that went with the Expreſs t
Detroit had some Strings of Wampum from the Six Nat
to deliver to the Shaweneses, desiring them not to be cast
down on this melancholy Occasion, or to lose Courage,
but to take Example from them, who had lost all thei
Villages; which Misfortune, had only served to render th
more daring and desperate, and had made them resolve
unanimously to act like Men, in order to be amply
revenged on so cruel and wicked a People, and that they
hoped the Shawenese would follow the Example of their
elder Brothers the Six Nations. — I shall therefore be gre
obliged to your Excellency to enable me, as early as may
convenient, to communicate to the Six Nations your
Resolutions respecting their Proposals.

I have the Honor to be &c.

ſigned) Allan Maclea

A Translation of a Speech delivered to His Excellency General Haldimand &c &c &c by Captain Joseph Brant alias Thayendanegea in behalf of the Six united Nations of Indians their allies and Dependants,✝ said Captn. Brant being sent Express from Niagara to Quebec, at the earnest Request of said Nations upon their hearing of a Peace being concluded between the King of England and his Subjects the Americans and arrived at Quebec 21st. May 1783. —

✝
ince the Conquest of Canada
ll the Indian Nations on the
ntinent have united them-
lves with the Six Nations
hom they Stile (as distinction
Superiority) their Uncles

1st. — After the usual introductory Salutation Captain Brant Spoke as follows

Brother Asharekowa and representative of the King!

The Sachem and War Chieftains of the Six united Nations of Indians and their Allies have heared that the King their Father has Made Peace with his Children the Bostonians #, and when they heared of it, they found that they Were forgot, and no Mention Made of them in Said Peace: Wherefore they have now Sent Me to inform themselves before You of the real Truth whether it is so or not, that they are not partaker of that Peace with the King & the Bostonians. —

#
y Bostonians the Indians
stinguish the Americans
n Rebellion, as it first
gun in Boston

2d. — Brother — Listen with great attention to Our Words! We Were greatly alarmed and cast down when we heard that News, and it Occasioned great discontent and Surprize with our People, Wherefore tell us the Whole & real Truth from Your Heart, and We beg that the King will be put in Mind by You and recollect what we have been when his People first Saw us, and What we Since have done for him & his Subjects.

3d

Brother — We the Mohawks were the first Indian Na that took you by the Hand like Friends and Brothers, and invited You to live amongst us, treating You with kindness upon your Debarkation in Small Parties. The Oneidas our Neighbours were equally Well disposed towards you, and as a Mark of our Sincerity & Love Towards you we fastened your Ship to a great Mountain at Onondago the Center of Our Confederacy, the rest of the five Nations approving of it, we were then a great People, conquering all Indian Nations round about us, and You in a Manner but a hand full. After Which You encreased by Degrees, and We Continued your Friends & Allies, joining You from Time to Time against Your Enemies, Sacrificing Numbers of our People, and leaving their Bones Scattered in Your Enemies Country, at last we assisted You in Conquering all Canada; and then again for joining You so firmly & faithfully You renewed your Assurances of protecting and defending ourselves, Lands & possessions against any Encroachments whatsoever, procuring us the Enjoyment of a fair & plentifull Trade of Your People, and sit Contented under the Shade of the Tree of Peace, tasting the Flavor of Friendship of a great Nation bound to us by Treaty, and able to protect us against all the World.

4th

Brother — You have Books & Records of our Mutual Treaties and Engagements, which will confirm the Truth of what I have been telling, and as we are unacquainted with the Art of Writing we keep it fresh in our Memory by Belts of Wampum deposited in our Council house at Onondaga. We have also received an Ornament for the head (i:e: a Crown).

from her late Majesty Queen Ann, as a Token of her mutual & unalterable Friendship & alliance with us and Our Confederacy, Wherefore We, on our Side have Maintained an uninterrupted Attachment towards You in confidence & Expectation of a Reciprocacy, and to Establish a perpetual Friendship & Alliance between us, of Which We Can give You Several Instances, to Wit, when a few Years after the Conquest of Canada, Your people in their Country thought themselves confined on account of their Numbers, with regard to a Scarcity of Land, we were applied to for giving up some of ours, and fix a Line or Mark between them & us. We considered upon it, and relinquish'd a great Territory to the King for the use of his Subjects for a Trifling Consideration Merely as a Confirmation of said act, and as a proof of our Sincere Regard towards them, this happened so late as the Year 1768. at Fort Stanwix and was gratefully accepted & ratified by the different Governors and Great Men of the respective Colonies on the Sea Side, in presence of our late Worthy Friend and Superintendent Sir William Johnson, When we expected a permanent Brotherly Love & Amity would be the Consequence, but in Vain! The insatiable Thirst for Power was the next Object of Satisfaction to the Kings Subjects on the Sea Coast, and they to blind our Eyes, Sent Priests from New England amongst us whom we took for Messengers of Peace, but we were Surprizingly undeceived When We found soon after that they Came to Sow the Seeds of Discord among our People, in order to Alienate our antient attachment & Alliance from the King our Father, and Join them in Rebellion against Him, and When they stood up aga him they first endeavoured to insnare us the Mohawks, and the Indians of the Six Nations living on the Susquehanna River, and the Oneidas, by Which Division they imagined the Remainder of the Confederacy would Soon follow, but to not the least Effect, About this Sad Period we lost our greatest Friend Sir William Johnson. Notwithstanding Which we were unalterably determined to Stick to our Ancient Treatys with the Crown of England, and When the Rebels attempted to insult the Families of the Descendants of our late Superintendant, on Whom the Management of our Affairs devolved, we Stuck to & protected them as much as in our Power, conducting them to Canada with determined Resolution inviolably to adhere to our alliance at the Risque of Lives, Families & Property; The rest of the Six Nations seeing the Firmness & Steadiness of us the Mohawks and Aughwagos followed our Examples and espoused the King's Cause to this present Instant —— This is Well known Brother, and would be too tedious to repeat on this pressing Occasion the Many Proofs of Fidelity we have given the King our Father! ——

Wherefore O Brother, I am now sent in behalf of all the King's Indian Allies to Receive a decisive answer from You, and to know Whether they are included in this Treaty with the Americans as faithfull Allies Should be, or not: and Whether those Lands which the great being above has pointed out for Our Ancestors & their Descendants, and placed them there from the beginning, and Where the Bones of our Forefathers are Laid is Secured to them: or Whether the Blood of their grand Children is to be mingled with their Bones, thro the Means of our Allies for Whom We have often So freely bled?

Gave a large Belt of Wampum —

5th **Brother** — We likewise understand that there is a great Clamour in England about the great Expence Governmt was put to in the Support of our Alliance with the King; If these Matters Brother were duly & Strictly examined into, it would be found upon an Estimate of What We and our Families have Received from Government that perhaps not one fourth part was delivered to us of What was Charged to the Crown Which We beg May be fairly Considered, and the Blame taken off our Shoulders, it being a great Injury to us. —

We beg Brother you Will Communicate this Speech to the King with all Dispatch possible —

No. 2

Literal Translation of a Speech Delivered by Capt. Joseph Brant in the Name of the Six Nation Indians & their Confederacy to His Excy General Haldimand on the 21st May 1783. —

In Governor Haldimand's No. 1 — of 2d June 1783.

No. 3.

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Jno. Deserundyon a Mohawk Chief dated Niagara 7th July 1783. to Col. Claus, translated from the Ind.n —

Brother

Since we arrived here we had a great deal of News from the Bostonians; yesterday arrived again two Oneidas with Genl. Schuylers {words Speech} which says that the Bostonians speak friendly & peaceably; but you can see by their looks they are not sincere.

Thayendanegea /: Ct. Brant :/ and I went yesterday to Teyohosseroron /: the new Mohk. Settlem.t :/ all the Tribes being assembled we delivered them Gora Asharegowa; /: His Excellency General Haldimands Speech "as delivered" at Quebec; They were all extreamly rejoiced at its contents, and agreed to follow his Advice firmly and unalterably. We only wait now the Arrivall of Owanughsishon /: Sir Jn. Johnson :/ who stays very long.

We have also an other piece of News from Detroit three very great Men of the Bostonians came to Sandusky to hold a Conference with the Indians, but when the Commanding Officer at Detroit heard of it, he sent immediatelly to take them, and they are now at Detroit. The Mohawks that went to reconnoitre the West side of Ontario are not arrived yet.

To Col. Claus / Sotsitsyowane.

Signed John Deserundyon.

Extract of a Letter
from Capt. John
the Mohawk to
Col. Claus.——

(Copy 2) Detroit 7th July 1783 ~ 175

Sir,

I am honored with your several letters of the 20th, 22d, 24th, 26th, and 28th June — Capt. Caldwell is ordered to repair to Niagara, with the Evidence for himself and Lieut. Turney. Some of them I cannot well spare, but the Captain thinks them absolutely necessary — Simon Girty a principal Evidence, is to [illegible] to proceed to Niagara.

The General order you sent me I received — I shall dispatch my Indians to morrow, provided the Gage does not arrive this day with final Orders & Instructions. — Believe me, Sir, I shall be aware of accumulating expences; on the contrary, I did believe and am still of opinion that the few Indians called together at present, will prevent numbers from coming in, that would otherwise have pretended ignorance of what was doing — The Chiefs are very thinly accompanied, most of the Indians being out Hunting — Those come in, are the principals, who otherwise would have been spoken with by two Deputys from Congress, whom Mr. Elliot met within a few miles of this Place, on their direct road hither — These, Sir, are Mr. Douglas and Captain McCully, mentioned in the dispatch I lately sent you — Mr. Douglas appears to be a shrewd sensible Man, his Companion rather more open — both genteel men. They delivered me a letter directed to the Officer Commanding his Britannic Majestys Forces at Detroit — This Letter is nearly a direct copy of the one sent you from General Lincoln dated at Philadelphia 3d. May 1783. I observed to Mr. Douglas that the subject of General Lincoln's Letter should be by me communicated to the Indians — they however have been long since restrained from going to war by orders from His Excellency the Commander in Chief — Then Mr. Douglas shewed me his Instructions, which are of such a nature that I can by no means admit of their being delivered to the Indians here, where His Excellency's final Orders are not yet arrived — I observed that as Commandant of Detroit I was as yet uninformed that the Posts were to be given up, or how the line was to strike. He then observed that Congreſs took it for granted that I had received my orders before now. ------ I have made these Gentlemen sensible that the Indians in the Vicinity of Detroit will (even should the Post be given up) fall on the other side, That therefore they cannot listen to them, and that the Delawares, Shawanese, Wiandotts, Mingoes, &c, will never act but with the concurrence of the six Nations, on whose determination Peace or War with those Indians will much depend. — And as the busineſs they are come upon is of a very delicate nature I advise them to wait upon you at Niagara, where they may also have the chance to meet with the Superintend.t Gen.l and Inspector General of Indian Affairs, which they have agreed to, and I have allowed their guide to return to Fort Pitt, least the people there should be alarmed at their being detained.

(Signed)

At. S. De Peyster

Brigr. General Maclean.

(Copy)

Detroit 7th July 1783

Sir

Now that the Miſsionaries from Congreſs are embarked and on the point of their departure, I will mention a word to you in Private.

I have shewn them every civility consistent with my duty, during their stay at this Place — And I have great reason (from the cheerful appearance in the countenances of many, as well as their expreſsions, and the odd notions put into the heads of the Indians) to be happy that they are embarked. — Perhaps you may think it best they should return by Lake Champlain, but in case it should be otherwise, I will be glad of your particular directions how you would wish I should behave to them on their return here.

However great Enthusiasts (those Miſsionaries as they call themselves) may be, and however willing to risk Martyrdom in the American cause, still it would bring an eternal slur upon me, should any drunken Indian, or any One whose suffering have been too great to have allowed him to listen to my council, do them an ill turn, considering the vast tract of Country betwixt this and Fort Pitt — besides, on the other hand they would have an opportunity of delivering their Meſsage to the Indians, which they were prevented doing on their way hither by reason of the Chiefs being on their way to Detroit — That the intent of their Journey is known amongst the Indians, I make no doubt, but as it could not be signified in form, and Answers received, they are not much advanced, and matters may still remain doubtful.

You, Sir, are the properest judge of this affair, and I sincerely wish the steps I have taken may meet with your approbation — Detroit is by no means a place for American Deputies to reside in untill His Excellency's final orders are received.

(Signed)

At. Sr. De Peyster

Brigadr. General Maclean.

Copies of Two Letters from
Major De Peyster to —
Brigr. General Maclean
Dated at Detroit 7th July
1783. —

Some time ago I had a Letter from Major Harris Acquainting that the late Captain Lieutenant of the 84th was owing a Debt to the Regiment of £200, and that the Senior Subalterns of the Regiment Agreed to pay that £200 provided the promotion went in the Regiment, and requesting that I would recommend the Senior Lieut & Ensign to your Excellency on that footing, which I accordingly did, and I also transmitted Major Harris Letter to the Adjutant General to be laid before you. Since then I had a Letter from Major Lernoult, Acquainting me that your Excellency was under promise for the Captain Lieutenancy, and it is more than Probable, that you did not mean to load the Gentleman to whom the promise is made with the incumbrance of a Debt of £200, but meant the favour Liberally. I think it my duty to Explain to your Excellency how that debt of £200 was incurred (which I did not know till Lately), Capt Lieut Maclean, it seems, did not pay the men of the different Companies he had charge of but been in Arrears to the Men; Accounts, or Acquittance Rolls were given to Major Harris every Muster, by which he saw, how much the Commanding Officers of Companies were indebted to their Companies; Capt Fraser the Paymaster finding that the Capt. Lieutenant was Considerably in Arrear to the Company, refused to give him the pay of the Company about a year ago, upon which Major Harris interposed, and Ordered him to give the Money of the Company to the Capt. Lieutenant, Major knowing well at the time, that he was Considerable in Arrears to the men, I was a stranger to the whole, and in fact, I have not or had not any thing to do with it, it becomes

General Haldimand

Wholly

on me also, — and may be the means
of rendering essential Service to a faithful
& gallant Subject, a Character I know you
like —— I am with much regard &
Esteem

Dr General
Your most obed.t and
most humble Serv.t
Al. Fraser

Brigadier Gen.l McLean

Sir   Niagara 10th July 1783

In a former Letter I had the honor to inform Your Excellency, that by report from the Indian Country, I was told that some Virginians & Indians, had arrived at some of our Indian Villages, with Messages to the Six Nations, And that Colonel Buttler had gone to meet them, to hear what these People had to say. After remaing at Buffalo Creek at the Onondago fire Place with all the Chiefs for three days a Messenger arrived Acquainting them that the Strangers were some of our own Delaware Indians come from Sandusky, as I thought on account of Mr. Ephraim Douglass Embassy: these Delaware came to Cadaragaras, when the Village were bussy drinking 15 Gallons of Rum sent them by Colonel Buttler to prevent their coming down here, on of the Stranges got so Drunk that he fell head foremost into a Large Kettle of Boiling Soup and he died next day Which Prevented their being at the Councile of the Six Nations. Colonel Buttler came back here three days ago, and delivered me the .. Substance of his Embassy Which I have the Honor to inclose for your Excellencys information, its dated the 30th June, Colonel Buttler also delivered me the Substance of an other Councile he had with the Chiefs of the Six Nations dated the Second day of July. I can assure you Excellency that I am truely ashamed to trouble you with so large a Share of Stuff & Nonsense; and that, but in obedience to your orders directing me to Communicate Every thing that Past here, I Certainly would not have troubled you with reading it. The Second Speach, that of the 2d. July, is clearly fabricated, and a down right forgery, and tho I have a very bad opinion of General Schuyler, I am positive he never

General Haldimand

made such a Speach, or Authorised any other to do it in his Name, in Short in my Opinion the whole is a fabricated falsehood, and I was a good deal out of humor with Colonel Butler for saying in his reply to these indians. "that he could not call it false" when he in his Conscience knew every word of it to be untrue I know there are People in the Colonies, who knowing the Credulity, Ignorance, And the Jealous & Suspicious temper of the Indians; would be happy, So far to impose on the Indians, by such Vague groundleſs Reports, where no Ostensible person can be pointed out, and by that means to get the indians so Much out of temper with us, as to get them to join their Own Vagabond Indians, to give us a good deal of trouble at quiting those Posts, in order to get Plunder; these Sir are my ideas, but I have the pleasure to Acquaint Your Excellency, that I believe we Shall disappoint them; the Common Language of those Secret Emmiſsaries is, Your King is dead he is gone You must Send to Court the Congreſs—

On the 5 Instant Captain Brant & Capt. John arrived here from Canada highly pleased with the Reception they meet with from Your Excellency, they requested leave to go among the Six Nations in order to Communicate to them the pleasant News they had, & Your good intentions towards the Six Nations. I gave them four Gallons of Rum, (for without that there is nothing to be done) And sent Capt. Powell with them they came back Yesterday perfectly pleased, and in Good Spirits, on Account of the good reception they meet with from all the Chiefs, Brant is in great Spirits; I had forgot to mention to Your Excellency that I was Angry with Colonel Butler for his having recommended to the Indians, to Send two men of Some Consequence to Canawarohary, to those Vagabond American Oneidas, upon the hearsay report only of two Young Indians that had gone there by Accident, that to Send a belt & Such Messages from the Six Nations, upon Such idle reports, was Exactly what the Enemy wanted but that it was a Sure and Certain rule, to avoid doing that which Your Enemies wish you to do. I gave a Strong hint of this to Capt Brant, and requested he would Endeavour to Counter Act it, And I am happy to be able to Inform Your Excellency that runers have been dispatched to bring them Back at his request —

I have the honor to be respectfully
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient &
Most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

1783.

From B. Genl. Maclean

~~Lt Col. Butler~~

10th July - Recd. 16th

Sir

Niagara 16th July 1783

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The inclosed Memorial I have just received from Detroit, Mr. Schieffelin, makes me a man of Much greater Consequence, than I have any pretensions to, Otherwise he would not address his Memorial to me; I have wrote him that I should transmit it to you to be laid before his Excellency and how soon I had any answer I should Communicate the same to him. — Let me therefore request that you will be pleased to lay the Memorial before his Excellency when Convenient, and Communicate to me the Commands of his Excellency thereon

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient &

most Humble Servant

Allan Maclean

Captain Mathews

Niagara 16th July 1783 —

Sir

I am favored with your letter of this date, in Answer to which, I am to inform you, that it is my wiſh, & ought to be that of every honest man to promote friendſhip, cordiality and reconciliation between the ſubjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States: and that I Shall for my part always follow that rule — You, Sir, have been ſo obliging as to deliver me a copy of your Inſtructions, together with the Resolve of Congreſs, upon which they are founded, & I ſhould have been happy to have had it in my power to comply with your wiſhes; but circumſtanced as I am in a Subaltern ſtation it was out of my power, untill I had received the orders of the Commander in chief. — My Sentiments on that head, I had the honor to communicate to General Lincoln Secretary at War to the United States by letter dated 16th of May last — An additional reason that weighed greatly with me, and rendered it impoſſible for me to admit the publication of your inſtructions, was, that part of them were conceived in terms that I judged to be unneceſsary, if not improper, and must have been a reflection on any British Officer that would give his conſent to their being publiſhed — I apprehend Congreſs to be unacquainted with the ſituation in which I stand with respect to Indians, there are 3,000 of them victualled here daily; theſe in fact are a part of this Garriſon as to Proviſion and Cloathing — and the impreſsion that the communicating your Inſtructions to them; would, (in my opinion) bring on diſputes that might be diſagreeable to the Service and the Troops under my Command, and for which I should be justly blamed, till I had received the ſanction of the Commander in Chief. The pacific diſpoſition of the United States to the Indian Nations, I communicated to them, when I received General Lincoln's Letter, and I shall repeat it by the Superintendant immediately — You are now acquainted with the pacific diſpoſition of the Indians, and I can aſsure you, there is nothing they wiſh for with greater anxiety, than Peace & Friendſhip with the United States — They have for ſome time past been greatly alarmed at the ſeveral ſevere Meſsages ſaid to be ſent them from Albany, but I have endeavoured to quiet their apprehenſions on that ſcore. — I cannot conclude without declaring, that in my humble opinion Congreſs could not have employed any Man better qualified than Yourſelf for carrying on a Negociation with the Indian Nations, and I greatly lament, for the reaſons I have mentioned, that it is out of my power to act otherwiſe than I have done, until I have the authority of my Superiors, which I shall tranſmit by a Flag of truce to the State of New York, the moment I receive them —

I have the honor to be &c: &c:

Ephraim Douglaſs Esqr.

Allan Maclean

Copy of a Letter from Genl. Maclean
to Ephraim Douglass Esqr. Messenger
to the Indian Tribes dated Niagara
16th. July 1783. —

No 5

Montreal 17 July 1783.

Dear Sir

Inclosed you have an Extract of a Letter I received yesterday from Capt. John the Mohawk, which be pleased to communicate to His Excellency the Commander in chief. By a Letter from Sir John to Lady Johnson, I find he paſs'd Cataracqui last Sunday, he mentions the Miſsisageys seemed displeased at our taking Poſseſsion of Fort Frontenac without asking or acquainting them with it; I remember it was talked off before Joseph left Quebec who told the General, there was no Occasion to say any thing to them about it, as they only would make a merit of giving Consent & have a Claim to presents &c. Whereas the Six Nations were the proper Owners of that Ground.

I take this Opportunity of inclosing you

my

Captain Mathews 8th Regt.
&c &c

my six Months Indian Expences from December 82.
to June 1783. — And having explained my self
some time ago to His Excellency the General on
what Footing I was sent out by Lord Sackville
then Lord G. Germaine as appears by His Lordships
Letter to the then Commander in Chief and the Channel
my Salary was to be paid in, my Expences having
likewise been hitherto paid by seperate Warrants,
I should imagine it could not make any material
Difference of His Excellencys granting this Warrant as
the Rest, as probable my Office will be of short Duration
it being intended only a temporary one while the war lasted,
& for the same Reason I should humbly conceive a final
Warrant might be granted, the whole being an extra
Affair. — I have retrenched (as you'll see) the last
6 Months Expence of upwards £300. & shall continue so
the short time I may keep the Office. —

I am with great Esteem & Regard

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Dan. Claus

From Nº 1783.
Colonel Claus
17th July - Recd 19th.

Oneida July 21st 1783.

This speech Delivered to the Oneidas
By Skenodoa and Petrus. to His Excellency
General Schuyler

Brother

We are sent he By the Six Nation
to find out. the Messages they have heard
Now three times which is from General Schuyler
and Genelar Washington. that they should sent
Some of their Great men to have Some Conver
setion with them; But they never seen no
Belt. yet. that is the reason they have not
Come

Brother, Now they are ready to Come
Whensoever they see one of the
Americans with the Belt and Letter
in his hand also with our Brethren
the Oneidas. They heard Good news from
the Americans which made their heart fel
glad. that they may return every

Nation to thier native Land. But they cant
believe it yet Because they have not seen
the thing which alway Confirm the matter
spoken of. they have also heard Bad News
with the good! By some young Men from
Oneiday. one reason is why they did not Come
before now. Colo. Butler Expected Sir John
Johnson now this long time, But they were
out of Patience waiting for him. So they
sent us two to find out the matter they
heard so many time. Colo. Butler have
a great desire that the americans should
make up with the Six Nations; the Six
Nations want to hear from ~~from~~ General
Schuyler quick as possible

Capt Joseph Brant. Spoke to us
as we were Coming. himself alone
as follows. Brothers, Be in earnest
to Deliver that Speech you have heard

Now I Speak a little. I Want General Schuyler
Should Certainly write to me, if he is for peace
and he uſe me well, I will take hold his
hend and I Shall ever be a Strong friend
to the Americans. as my Grandfathers were
to the king. Whose firm friendship to
the king has Undone me.

Wrote me Jacob Reed. By the Desire
of Skenondon. and Peter

from [illegible]
Recd July 24th
1788

✓

against the Many Emissaries and Wellwishers which the American States have amongst the old Subjects Settled or which may Settle in this Country. ——

I have the Honor &c to &c ——

(Signed) Fred: Haldimand

Lord North
(No. 8)
by the London 28th July

Quebec 21st July 1783. ——

My Lord

As the Transports with the German Troops will Sail the beginning of next Month under Convoy of His Majesty's Ship Pandora, I shall have the Honor to write fully by that opportunity — In the mean time, I have to acquaint Your Lordship, that Major Holland is returned from Making the Survey of Cataraqui, mentioned in my former Letter; his Report is very favorable. — Sir Guy Carleton has acquainted me that Two hundred Families of Distressed Loyalists intend to embark for this Country with a View to make a Settlement near that from Making the Survey of Cataraqui mentioned in my former Letter; Its Report is very favorable.—

Sir Guy Carleton has acquainted me that Two hundred Families of Distressed Loyalists intend to Embark for this Country with a View to Make a Settlement near that Place. I have already taken measures towards putting the Fort or Store Houses at Cataraqui in a Condition to receive the Stores (for it will not be possible to transport them to Montreal) from Forts Niagara, Oswego and Carleton Island in Case His Majesty's orders for the Evacuation and delivery of these Places should not arrive in Time to be Carried into Execution this Season

I have the Honor to be &c.

(Signed) Fred: Haldimand

P.S. 26th July 1783

I have the Pleasure to acquaint Your Lordship that by accounts from the Upper Country I learn that every thing is quiet there — The Indians are nevertheless extremely anxious to know the

result

of the Definitive Treaty. They are Allarmed by an attempt Which General Schuyler (who is Superintend of Indian Affairs for the American States) has made to disunite them. His Emissaries the Oneida Nation were sent by Him to Niagara, to invite certain ——— Chiefs ~~of all our Nations~~ to a Congress at Albany. They prevailed upon their Chiefs, but on the Road upon our setting out the Oneidas told them that they had been instructed not to invite the Chiefs of the Mohawks, the Senecas and Cayugas, whom the Americans intended to Punish; upon Which the Chiefs of the other Nations perceiving the insidious designs of General Schuyler declared to the Oneidas that they ~~[illegible]~~ would never abandon their Brethren, and returned to Niagara, leaving the Oneidas to acquaint General Schuyler with the failure of his Scheme to disunite the Indians — Whatever further

Schuyler defeated & the Oneidas that they ~~[illegible]~~ would never abandon their Brethren, and returned to Niagara, leaving the Oneidas to acquaint General Schuyler with the Failure of his Scheme to disunite the Indians — Whatever further shall Occur upon this Subject, I shall have the Honor to Communicate it to Your Lordship.

(Signed) F. H.

33.
To
Secretary of the Treasury
the London 28th July

Quebec 25th July 1783. —

Sir

I have the Honor to acquaint You, for the Information of the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, that I have this Day drawn upon their Lordships Ten Setts of Bills payable to the inclosed abstract and Receipts amounting together

to

Proceedings with the Indians of the Six Nation Confederacy and Sir John Johnson Bart. Superintendt. General &ca held at Niagara in July 1783.—

The Indians who had been summoned to attend being for the most part assembled, on the 22d. July, The Chiefs &ca performed the Ceremony of Condolance with Sir John Johnson, — in order to be prepared to enter on business the Next day.—

At a Meeting with the Chiefs, & Warriors of the Six Nations and Confederates, the Deputies from the Hurons of Detroit &ca held at Niagara on Wednesday the 23d. of July 1783.—

Present

Brigr. Genl. Sir John Johnson Superintd. Genl. &ca
Brigr. General Maclean
Lieut. Colo. Dundass, 8th. Regt.
Lieut. Colo. Hoyes — 34th Regt.
Lieut. Colo. Butler } Deputy Agents
John Dease Esqr. }
with a Number of Officers of the Garrison
& those of the Indian Department.—

Chiefs
Sayengaraghta } Senecas
Kayashota }
Desqwanda — Onondagas
Tagaaia — Cayugas
Captn. Aaron — Mohocks
&
1685 Indians includg. 107 Chiefs.—

Brethren,

I most heartily bid you wellcome to this great fireplace, where I meet you with an Intention to remove all suspicions & Doubts which you may have harbord, & that have given you uneasiness, & with a view to promote your happiness, & interest which I most sincerely have at heart, I therefore hope you will give due attention & pay a proper Regard to what I shall say, & that our proceedings may prove agreeable, & be conducted with Decency, sincerity, & Candour.—

Brethren,

With a heart most sensibly affected by the misfortunes of our fellow Creatures, I sincerely Condole with you for the Loss of the many Chiefs, & Warriors who have unfortunately fallen in the Course of the unhappy War which has but too long subsisted between us and our Country men. — I do therefore on the part of the King your Father, & all His faithful Subjects with this belt Wipe away the blood of your Relations, & friends that has been shed & stained the Country around you, that it may no longer prove a Source of Affliction to you, or be painful in your sight — & with this belt Collect their scattered bones, and carefully bury them so deep in the Earth that they shall never more offend your Eyes. — A belt.

Brethren, It was with no little Concern that from the nature of the business I was sent upon, the pressing necessity of my speedy return to Canada, & the order I had received, I was prevented last Autumn from shaking you by the hand, & from making known to you His Majesty's Gracious Appointment of me to preside over your Affairs. — It was my intention to have visited you very early in the Spring but the Unfortunate Event of the War, & the want of proper information relative to your situation as well as our own prevented me, & would still have done so, until I should be fully acquainted with every thing necessary for your information had I not been told of your impatience to see me, & been directed by the Commander in Chief to assemble you at this Place; and give you his answer to your Speech Addressed, & delivered to him by Captain Brant. —

Brethren, Altho' the King your father has found it necessary for the happiness & ease of his more domestic subjects to conclude a long Bloody, expensive, & unnatural War by a peace which seems to give you great uneasiness on account of the boundary line agreed upon between His Majesty's Commissioners, & those of the United States, yet you are not to believe, or ever think that by the Line which has been described it was meant to deprive you of an extent of Country of which the right of soil belongs to, & is in yourselves as sole proprietaries as far as the boundary Line agreed upon, and Established in the most solemn, and public manner (in the presence and with the consent of the Governors and Commissioners deputed by the different Colonies for that purpose) by your late Worthy Brother, & friend Sir William Johnson in the year 1768 at Fort Stanwix; Neither can I harbor an Idea that the United States will

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act so unjustly, or impolitically as to endeavor to deprive you of any part of your Country under the pretence of having conquered it. — The King still considers you his faithful Allies, as his Children and will continue to promote your happineſs by his protection, and incouragement of your usual intercourse with Traders with all other benefits in his power to afford you. — I therefore in the most earnest manner recommend to you for your own advantage to bear your Loſses with manly fortitude, forgiving & forgetting what is past, Looking forward in full hopes, and Expectation that on the return of the bleſsings of Peace, and cool and just reflection all animosity, and enmity will cease — Conciliation succeed, & friendships be renewed, & as a proof of your inclination to promote that desireable end, let me once more recommend to you to collect, & give up without exception all prisoners that may be yet among you, and as an inducement to comply with what I recommend, and as a proof of His Majesty's bounty, & attention to you, I have brought up a Large aſsortment of everything Neceſsary to supply your wants, & I have further the satisfaction to acquaint you that so far from being neglected or cast off when your services can be no longer wanted as has been very unjustly imagined, and reported, the King has Ordered out a Large Cargoe of Goods to supply your farther wants as well as to afford relief to all such among you who by the fortune of War, the loſs of friends, old age, or infirmities are rendered unable to support themselves. —

Brethren, I must recommend to you to be unanimous among yourselves and not to separate, or scatter about the Country, & thereby weaken yourselves, & leſsen your Consequence, & to advise your young Men to desist from all acts of hostility, otherwise they may draw on themselves the resentment of the people on the frontiers, which was very near being the Case sometime in May, in consequence of the Shawanese & Delawares on the Waters of the Miamis having taken a Number of Women & Children as has been represented by their Commiſsioner who lately left this place for Albany. —

Brethren, I have only to add that let my Situation be where it will I shall never lose sight of your interest. I shall therefore Inform you from time to time of everything that may be of any Consequence or in the least interesting to you; Expecting at the same time the like friendly communication on your part.—

At a Meeting with the Six Nations &c.ª on Thursday the 24th July.—

Present as before

Being all Seated, Sayengaraghta arose & addreſsed the Superintendant General as follows.—

Brother, We the Chiefs and Warriors here aſsembled return you our thanks for your Speech of Yesterday, to which we paid the greatest attention, the openneſs and Sincerety with which you spoke to us, the friendly pains you took to remove our Doubts and fears, to make us easy in our minds and to promote our happineſs, can't fail of being pleasing to us and impreſsing us with a deep sense of Gratitude and Acknowledgement.— You may rest aſsured that the different Subjects recommended to us in your Speech shall be chearfully Complied with; which we hope you'll Consider as a Convincing proof of our sincere regard.—

Brother, We are sensibly affected by your kind Condolance for the Loſs of many of our Chiefs, and Warriors who have bravely fallen in the Course of the War; and your Compliance with the Customs of our Forefathers has greatly leſsened our affliction on that occasion.—

Brother, You have with friendly care collected, & buried the scattered Bones of our Relations, and friends least the sight of them should renew our grief. We wish for the strongest Expressions to assure & convince you how much your Brotherly attention has affected us, and the lasting impression it has made on us. —

Brother, Altho we sincerely regretted not having an opportunity of shaking you by the Hand last fall, the different reasons you assign for your speedy return to Canada are so plain, and Satisfactory as to convince us of the Propriety of your Conduct, We request you to accept our thanks for the friendly information, and Advice you gave us as also for communicating to us the Commander in Chiefs Speech.

String Wampum —

Brother, We have duly considered the Commander in Chiefs Speech to us in Answer to ours delivered to him by Captain Brant, we are both pleased, and satisfied with it, and are fully persuaded both by His Answer, and by his sending you to meet us here, that he is not inattentive to our Interests, and happiness, as by your timely arrival at this great Fire place We are relieved from that anxiety, and uncertainty which distressed the Six Nations, We again lift up our Heads, and from His Excellency's Words are induced to believe the Terms of Peace are not so unfavorable as at first represented, and We beg you to assure him that we shall strictly attend to his Advice, & patiently wait for further information relative to our Affairs, with any other Commands which His Excellency should think proper to forward to us. —

Brother, As you informed us that the King our Father found it necessary to conclude a Long, & unnatural War by a Peace which appeared to give us great uneasiness on account of the Boundary Line, agreed upon between His Majesty, & the United States, you also have induced us to believe that by that line it was not intended to Deprive us of our Country of which the right of soil was in

ourselves agreeable to the Treaty in 1768 at Fort Stanwix:
Brother; We are Exceedingly happy to hear your Opinion on that subject, it's true we have been very uneasy and with much Reason, our fears relative to our Country having given us great Concern, but shou'd the Americans molest, or Claim any part of our Country, We shall then ask Assistance of the King our Father who still considers us his faithful allies, and Children, and will continue to promote Our Happiness by his protection, & encouragement; we undoubtedly are do hope he thinks us his faithfull allies, and hope to be supported by him on all Occasions agreeable to what you mentioned to us Yesterday, when you assured us that the King still considers us his faithful Allies for we have assisted him in his Battles, and have done whatever was required during the War; Notwithstanding the War was entirely his own, & we had nothing to do with it, farther than assisting him as old allies. — At the commencement of the War we were told Both by the Commanding Officer at this Post, and by Colonel Butler that all the rebel Prisoners we shou'd take; should be our own, Notwithstanding which at your request we are Determined to collect them all, and give them to you without exception, we will moreover send Messengers to our Younger Brethren the Western Nations strongly recommending to them to follow our Example. — We are extremely happy to find that the King has not forgot His Children, in proof of which you have brought a supply of Presents for them and you say a greater Quantity is yet to come. We hope and request that We may receive the Presents intended for us & that they may not be applied to the use of white people, & at the same time charg'd to us, which has often been the case, & has frequently, and undeservedly given us the Character of been Extravagantly expensive to the King our Father. —

[Here the Speaker pointed across at some of the officers & then proceeded]

Brother. You advised us to be united among ourselves & that our

young

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young Men should Desist from all Hostilities, We thank you much for your Advice which we are convinced is good, & which we have, strictly observed since We were first informed of the Peace, We shall still continue in the same Disposition, & bind ourselves in a small Circle. — And we the Chiefs, & Warriors of the different Nations aſsembled here do request of the King our Father not to permit his Loyal Subjects to Wander, & scatter themselves but encourage them to settle on Lands on the opposite side of the Waters, and Erect Posts for our mutual Protection in Trade, & by this means cement us as one people which we are aſsured will be a general advantage to all concern'd. — We are now perfectly convinced of that regard, & Love which We always imagined you entertained for us, as we do with the greatest sincerity aſsure you of every confidence on our part, firmly convinced that both the Commander in Chief, & yourself speak to us at all times the feelings of your Hearts with candor, and Sincerity for which we are truly thankful, as you have relieved our uneasy minds, and given us every poſsible Satisfaction that circumst-ances would admit of. —

A Belt. —

At a meeting with the before mentioned Indians on Monday the 28th. July 1783. —

Present as before.

Sir John Johnson addreſsed the Indians in Answer to their Speech as follows.

Brethren,

I meet you here this Day with much satisfaction in Order to expreſs to you my approbation of your Conduct in our late proceedings; your prudence, Moderation, and attention, Give me the sincerest pleasure, & enable me to make the most favorable representation of you to the King, thro' the Commander in Chief. —

Brethren, The Opinion I gave you relative to the Boundary Line agreed upon, I conceive to be just, & as we are yet Uninformed of what secret Treaties may have taken place or indeed that even the definitive treaty is as yet signed, I am in hopes that matters may turn out more favorably than We at present apprehend them to be. —

Brethren, The many Spirited, and constant proofs you have during the course of the War given of your attachment to the King your Father, can leave no room to doubt that you are his faithful Allies, and His great attention in supplying your Wants in a generous Manner will Assure You that he considers you as his Children, & will give you every reasonable assistance when necessary.

Brethren, Since my appointment to superintend your Affairs, I have studiously taken every precaution to prevent his Majesty's Bounty to you from being applied to any uses but your own, & to abolish every abuse that might create unnecessary Expence to the King, or make those of the Department appear greater than they really require to be. —

Brethren, I have to thank you for the particular attention paid to that part of my Speech that regards the Prisoners, & your promise to deliver them up without exception Notwithstanding former promises. — I consider it as a particular Compliment to myself, and make no doubt that your Messages to the Western Nations will be such as will determine them to follow your Example. —

Brethren, You will certainly Experience the good Consequences of Remaining United, & Collected, & refraining from Hostilities as recommended to you, And you may rest assured that I shall on my return to Canada take the earliest Opportunity of laying before the Commander in Chief your request relative to the Loyalists, and the Establishing Posts for the protection of Trade on the opposite side of the Waters.—

Brethren, I have now ordered to be laid before, & Delivered to you the fresh Instance of His Majestys Bounty which I brought up for your use, & earnestly request that the Chiefs of each Nation may make such an Equitable distribution of the same as will prevent any Complaints, or Jealousies.—

Brethren, I cannot cover up our great fire place without once more thanking you for the Cordiality with which you received me, your readiness in Complying with my request, & the attention you paid to every thing I recommended to you.— I have only to add, that fully persuaded that my Constant endeavors to promote your Interest will be the most acceptable proof I can give you of my regard for you, I shall not lose sight of that object— His Excellency the Commander in Chief has on all occasions manifested so great an Inclination to give you every assistance in his power, as must impress you with sentiments of grateful respect, and a strong belief of his Sincerity.—

Then the present being prepared, & piled up, was delivered over, and divided by the Chiefs among the Indians.—

At a Meeting held with the Seneca and Tuscarora Chiefs, & Warriors from Chenussio— July 30th 1783—

Present

Brigr Genl Sir Jno Johnson, Bart &ca
Lieut Colo Butler }
John Dease Esqr } Deputy agents
& some of the Officers of the Indn Department.—

A Chief spoke as follows

Brother, We yesterday on our arrival here waited on you at this great Fire Place, & complimented you, & are happy to tell you that we have impatiently waited your arrival; We thank the Great Spirit for conducting you safe here, and we yesterday told you, that we had something of Consequence to Communicate to you, which we shall now do, and require your attention to it.—

Brother, On your arrival here you sent us a Message that You were arrived, and would be glad to see us here, and that you had something of Consequence to Communicate to us, & on the same Strings you sent word that we should send in two of your People, and one Prisoner with us, & that if they did not chuse to come in peaceably, or with advice, that they should then be Pinioned and sent here,— We looked upon this as a Disagreeable thing for us to do but at the same time recollected that we had been told by Colonel Butler chearfully to do what was desired of us, & that we would then not be blamed, we were uneasy in our minds, as we heard that we were blamed & that 'twas thought we had assisted those people to go off. We hope you'll not think we have assisted them as we have always chearfully obeyed every thing desired, or recommended to us, and have been faithful to the King our Father.—

[N. This part of their Speech was a Mistake as the Message they Mention came from Brigr. McLean & Lieut Colo. Butler, to whom Sir John Johnson referred them for an Answer—.]

Brother, We the Senecas, and Tuscaroras are of one mind, and our minds are as firmly fixed as the Ground. This Country has been given to us by the Great Spirit, and we all intend to Die as one man on those Lands, & not to be disturbed by white People.— We have always been true to the King, and assisted him as much as in our power, you the white people can leave these Lands, and move across the Seas, as you have Land there— but we have none, and are therefore determined to die in those Lands, altho' our Numbers are small & have been much reduced; yet we are of one mind, and resolution, we have brought in those two people, but Allen was gone.— We hope you'le not be displeased at us, and that you'le not Hang these men as is reported.—

Brother,

You Yesterday informed us that you had explained your Speeches to the Chiefs in Council, & recommended to us to Request them to repeat it to us — We do not chuse to hear what you had to say to us from the Chiefs as it will be a greater satisfaction to hear what has past from you.—

At a Meeting held with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations &ca — Niagara, 31st July 1783.

Present

Brig.r Gen.l Sir John Johnson Superintend.t Gen.l &ca of Ind.n Affairs
John Dease Esq.r Deputy Agent
Major Scott
Capt.n Parke; Kings Reg.t
Capt.n Brant Indian Departm.t
M.r Nicholas Stevens Interpreter.—

A Chief Spoke

Brother

We Yesterday understood that you was soon going to leave this place, and some of us then took our leave of you, but some more of our people at that time absent having wished to see you, occasions our waiting on you at this time. We therefore on behalf of the whole of the six Nations now wish you a safe Return to Montreal.— We cannot fail in repeating our thanks for the great satisfaction you have given us while here.—

Brother, As we before have told you of the great Satisfaction you have given us, since your Appointment to superintend our Affairs, We therefore beg that you'll not be discouraged by any Difficulties attending it, especially the interference of other people who are not connected, or acquainted with our Affairs, and these people will be soon convinced if our Affairs are managed under your particular direction that it will be both our interest, and an advantage to Government, — Our feelings for our Friend your Father, (Sir William Johnson) were great, and are now renewed at your sight, We hope you will follow the steps of your Father; and hope, and request that the interference of others or any interruptions you may have met with will not be a discouragement to you from following them, and that our Business may continue to be transacted by you with Spirit. —

Brother, We request you will acquaint the Commander in Chief herewith, and lay before him this Belt, and we beg that he will strengthen you to do our business freely, and without the Interference of others, as has been done formerly by our great friend Sir William Johnson, and we are well assured that if his steps are followed — it will be both for our interest, and that of the Government; We are convinced that the Commander in Chief takes our interests into his consideration, and will fulfill our request on his part. —

Brother, You mentioned in our last meeting that you wished we would send proper Messengers to our Western Brethren in answer to their Belt, & to Communicate to them the Business transacted here, we have now appointed proper Persons for that purpose, and request your Assistance in forwarding them, and wish one of the Agents would Accompany them. — To which Sir John Johnson answered, by returning his thanks for the tribute of regard they paid to the memory of his Father, & the friendly sentiments they entertained for himself, assuring them that he was thereby encouraged & determined to persevere in the faithful discharge of his duty by a steady attention to their interests, and that they might rely on his doing so, so long as he could do it consistent with the dictates of honor & Conscience. That he should lay the whole of his Transactions with them before the Commander in Chief at his return to Canada, & recommend their interests strongly in expectation that their Conduct would merit the Continuation of his regard and favorable report of them. After which he took leave of them in the most friendly Terms.—

Sir John Johnson on his return from Niagara stopped at Carleton Island, to speak with the Chiefs of the Missisagas according to a promise he had made when going up the Country; being assembled The Chiefs &ca after the usual Compliments Told him that, a report prevailed as if several of the six Nations intended shortly to come, and plant on their Ground, on the North side of the Lake, that it had alarmed them greatly, as they apprehended it would be followed by disputes between them, and must terminate in the one or the other leaving the Country, which they earnestly wished to prevent.— To which Sir John Johnson answered, that he then met them at the request made by some of their people when he was on the way to Niagara; that he had now heard with attention what they had said, and could assure them that the six Nation had not signified any intention of going upon their Lands, & he was persuaded that no such settlement, or any other would be undertaken without their knowledge, & Consent; adding that he should lay what they had said, together with the whole of his Transactions before the Commander in Chief on his return to Montreal.—

Sir John Johnson's
Proceedings with the Six
Nations &c at Niagara
in July 1783.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Niagara,
23 July, 1783

Speech by Sir John Johnson to the Six Nations

III, 245-48

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I most heartily bid you welcome to this Great fire place where I meet you with an intention to remove all suspicions & Doubts which you may have harbor'd & that have given you uneasiness And with a view to promote your hapiness & Interest which I most Sincerely have at heart, I therefore hope you will Give Due attention & pay a proper regard to what I shall say and That our proceedings may prove Agreeable & be conducted with Decency Sincerity & Candour — — —

With a heart most Sensibly affected by the misfortunes of our fellow Creatures, I sincerely Condole with you for the loss of the many Chiefs & Warriors who have unfortunately fallen In the Course of the unhappy War which has but too long subsisted between us and our Countrymen. I Do therefore on the Part of the King your father & all his faithfull Subjects, with this Belt wipe away the Blood of your Relations & friends that has been Shed and Stain'd the Country around you, that it may no longer prove a Source of Affection to you, or be hurtful in your Sight. And with this Belt I Collect those Scattered bones, & Carefully Bury them so Deep in the Earth that they will never more be seen to offend your Eyes — — — — — — — — — — — — —

It was with no little Concern that from the nature of the business I was sent upon, the pressing necessity of my Speedy Return to Canada, & the orders I had received, I was prevented last Autumn from Shaking you by the hand, & from making known to you his Majesty's Gracious Appointment of Me to preside over Your affairs, it was my intention to have visited You very early in the Spring but the Unfortunate Event of the

Bro.s and the want of Information relative to your Situation as well as our own, prevented me & would Still have done so untile I Shou'd be fully acquainted with Every thing necessary for Your Information had I not been Informed of Your impatience to see me, And been directed by the Commander in Chief to assemble You at this place & give you the Answer to your Speech addressed & Delivered to him by Captn Bran

Altho' the King your Father has found it necessary for the Happiness & Ease of his inured Domestic Subjects to Conclude long Bloody, Expensive & unnatural War, by a peace which seems to Give you great uneasiness on account of the Boundary Line Agreed Upon Between his Majesty's Commissioner & those of the United States, Yet you are not to believe or Even think that by line which has been described it was meant to deprive you of Extent of Country of which the Right of Soil belongs to & is in Yourselves as sole proprietaries as far as the boundary line Agreed Upon & Established in the most Solemn & public manner in the presence & with the Consent of the Governors and Commis Deputed by the different Colonies for that purpose by your La Worthy Brother & friend Sir William Johnson in the Year 1768 at Fort Stanwix. Neither can I harbor an Idea that the United States will Act so unjustly or impolitically as to endeavour to Deprive you of any part of your Country under the ~~pretence~~ of having Conquered it — the King still considers You his faithfull Allies as his Children & will Continue to promote your happiness By his protection & encouragement of Your usual intercourse With Traders, with all other benefits in his power to afford You. I therefore in the most earnest manner recommend to you for Your own advantage to bear Your Losses with manly fort

-tive forgiving & forgetting what is past Brothers, forward in full hopes & Expectation that the return of the blessings of peace and Cool & just Reflection [illegible] Animosity & Enmity will cease conciliation Friend & friendships be Renewed, and as a proof of your Inclination to promote that Desireable end Let me once more Recommend to you to Collect and give up without Exception all prisoners that may be yet among you and as an inducement to Comply with what I recommend & as a proof of His Majesty's Bounty & attention to you, I have brought up a large assortment of every thing necessary to supply your Wants — and I have further the Satisfaction to Acquaint you that so far from your being Neglected or Cast off when your services can no longer be wanted As has been very unjustly Imagined and Reported, the King has ordered out a large assortment of Goods to Supply your further wants as well as to afford Relief to all such among you who by the fortune of War the Loss of Friends, Old age, or infirmities are rendered Unable to Support themselves.

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I have only to add that let my situation be where it will I shall never Lose Sight of Your Interest. I shall therefore inform you from time to time of Every thing that may be of Any Consequence or in the least interesting to You Expecting at the Same time a Like friendly Confidence on Your part ——

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Niagara 13 July 1783

Sir John Johnsons
Speech to the Six
Nation Indians &c —

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36

I most heartily bid you wellcome [sic] to this Great fire place where I meet you with an intention to remove all suspicions & doubts which you may have harbord [sic] & that have given you uneasiness, And with a view to promote your hapiness [sic] & Interest which I most sincerely have at heart, I therefore hope you will Give Due attention & pay a proper regard to what I shall say and That our proceedings may prove Agreeable & be conducted with Decency Sincerity & Candour

With a heart most Sensibly affected by the misfortunes of our fellow Creatures, I sincerely Condole with you for the loss of the many Chiefs & Warriors who have unfortunately fallen In the Course of the unhappy War which has but too long subsisted between us and our Countrymen. I Do therefore on the Part of the King your father & all his faithfull Subjects, with this Belt wipe away the Blood of your relations & friends that has been shed and stain'd the Country around you, that it may no longer prove a Source of Affection to you, or be hurtful in your Sights And with this Belt I Collect there [sic] scattered bones, & Carefully Bury them so Deep in the Earth that they will never more be seen to offend your Eyes —

It was with no little Concern that from the nature of the business, I was sent upon, the pressing necessity of my speedy return to Canada, & the orders I had received, I was prevented last autumn from Shaking you by the hand, & from making known to you his Majesty's Gracious Appointment of Me to preside over Your affairs, it was my intention to have visited You very early in the Spring but the Unfortunate Event of the War And the want of Information relative to your Situation as well as our own, prevented me & would Still have done so untill I Shou'd be fully acquainted with Every thing necessary for your Information had I not been Informed of Your impatience to see me, And been directed by the Commander in Chief to assemble You at this place & give you this Answer to your Speech addressed & delivered to him by Captn. Brant, Altho' the King your father has found it necessary for the Happiness & Ease of his more Domestic Subjects to Conclude long Bloody, Expensive, & unnatural War, by a peace which seems to Give you great uneasiness on account of the Boundary Line Agreed upon Between his Majesty's Commissioner & those of the United States, Yet you are not to believe or Even think that by that line which has been Described, it was meant to deprive you of any Extent of Country of which the Right of Soil belongs to & is in Yourselves as sole proprietaries as far as the boundary line Signed Upon & Established in the most Solemn & public manner in the presence & with the Consent of the Governors and Commissioners Deputed by the Different Colonies for that purpose by your Late Worthy Brother & friend Sir William Johnson in the Year 1768 at Fort Stanwix. Neither can I harbor an Idea that the United States will Act so unjustly or impollitically [sic] as to endeavor to Deprive you of any part of your Countries under the pretence of having Conquer'd it — the King still considers You his faithfull Allies as his Children & will Continue to promote your happiness - By his protection & encouragement of your usual intercourse with Traders, with all other benefits in his power to afford You. I therefore in the most earnest manner recommend to you for Your own advantage to bear your Losses with manly fortitude forgiving & forgetting what is past looking forward in full hopes & Expectation that on the return of the blessings of peace and Cool & Just reflection all Animosity & Enmity will Cease conciliation Succeed & friendship be renewed, and as a proof of Your Inclination to promote that Desirable end Let me once more Recommend to you to Collect and give up without exception all prisoners that may be yet among you and as an inducement to Comply with what I recommend & as a proof of His Majesty's Bounty and attention to You, I have brought up a large assortment of everything necessary to Supply your Wants And I have further the Satisfaction to Acquaint you that so far from your living Neglected or Cast off when Your services can no longer be wanted As has been very unjustly Imagined and Reported, the King has ordered out a large assortment of

Goods to Supply your further wants as well as to afford relief to all such among you who by the fortune of War, the Loss of Friend, Old age, or infirmities are rendered Unable to Support themselves.

I must recommend to You to be unanimous Among Yourselves & not to Separate or Scatter about the Country and thereby Weaken Yourselves & Lessen Your Consequence, And to advise Your Young Men to desist from all Acts of hostilities Otherwise they may Draw on themselves the Resentment of the People on the frontiers as has been very near the Case, Some time in May, in Consequence of the Shawanese & Delawares in the Waters of the Miamies having taken a number of wome~~a~~n & Children As has been Represented by the Commissioners who lately Left this place for Albany

I have only to add that let my situation be where it will I shall never Lose Sight of Your Interest. I shall therefore inform you from time to time of Everything that may be of Any Consequence or in the least interesting to You Expecting at the Same time a Like friendly Confidence on your part

Endorsement :

Niagara 23 July 1783
Sir John Johnson's Speech to the Six Nation Indians

Niagara 24th July 1783 —

A Meeting held with the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nation Indians, their Allies and Confederates and Deputies of the Hurons &c in Consequence of Brigadier Genl. Sir John Johnson's Speech the Preceding day —

Present

Brigr. Genl. Sir John Johnson, Superintt. Genl. &c.

Brigadier Genl. Maclean
Lt. Col. Dundas 8th Regt.
Lt. Col. Hoyes — 34th Regt.
Lt. Col. Butler }
John Dease Esqr. } Deputy Agents
with a Number of Officers of the Garrison & those of the Indian Department —

Chiefs

Sayengaraghta	Senecas
Kayashota	
Tuyaguanda —	Onondagas
Tegaeya —	Cayugas
Capt. Aron —	Mohawks

Sayengaraghta rose and adressed himself to the Superintendent General in the following manner —

Brother

We the Chiefs & warriors here Assembled. Return you our thanks for your Speech of Yesterday to which we paid the greatest attention The Openess & Sincerity with which you Spoke to us. the friendly pains you took to remove our Doubts & fears. to make us Easy in our minds. & ~~restore~~ promote us to happiness, cant fail of Being pleasing to us & impressing us with a Deep sense Of Gratitude & acknowledgement. You may Rest Assured That the Different Subjects recommended to us in your Speech Shall be Chearfully Complied with which we hope you will Consider as a Convincing proof of our Sincere Regard —

Brother

We are Sensibly Affected by your kind Condolance for the Loss of the many Chiefs & warriors who have Bravely fallen in the course of the war, & your compliance with the Customs of our Forefathers has greatly Lessend our Affliction on that Occasion

(1)

Brother — You have with friendly care Collected & buried the Scatt
Bones of our Relations & friends Least the Sight of them
Should Renew our Grief, we Wish for the Strongest
Expressions to Assure & Convince you how much your
Brotherly Attention has Affected us & the Lasting Imp
It has made on us —

Brother Altho we Sincerely Regretted Not having an Opportun
Of Shaking you by the hand Last fall, the Different
Reasons you Assign for your Speedy Return to Canada
Are so plain & Satisfactory As to Convince us of the
propriety of Your Conduct. we Request you to Accept
Our thanks for the friendly Information & Advice you
Gave us, As Also for Communicating to us the Comdr
in Chiefs Speech Strings Wampum

Brother We have Duly Considered the Commander in Chiefs
Speech to us in Answer to ours Delivered to him by
Captn. Brant we are both pleased & Satisfied with it
And are fully persuaded both by his Answer & by his
Sending You to meet us here that he is not inattentive
to our interest & happiness As by your timely arri
At this great fire place we are Relieved from that gre
Anxiety & uncertainty which Distressed the 6 Nations
We Again lift up our heads & from his Excellency's
Speech are induced to believe the terms of peace not
so unfavorable ~~as~~ at first represented. & we beg You
to Assure him that we shall strictly Attend to his Advi
And patiently Wait for further information relative
Our Affairs with Any Other Commands which ~~Will~~
his Excellency Should think proper to forward to them.

Brother You informed us that the King our father found it
Necessary to Conclude a long & unnatural War by
A peace which Appeared to give us great uneasiness
On Acct. of the boundary Line Agreed Upon between his
Majesty & the united States, You Also have ordered us

To believe that by that line it was not intended to Deprive Us of our Country of Which the right of Soil Was in Ourselves Agreeable to the treaty in 1768 at fort Stanwix Brother we are Exceedingly happy to hear your Opinion On that Subject, its true we have been very Uneasy & with much reason our fears relative to our Country having Given us great Concern. but Should the Americans molest Us or Claim Any part of our Country we Shall then Ask the Assistance of the King our father & hope to be Supported by him on all such Occasions Agreeable to what you mentiond to us Yesterday when you Assurd us that the King Still Considers us his faithfull Allies as his Children & will Continue to promote our happiness by his protection & encouragement. we undoubtedly are & hope he thinks us his faithfull Allies for we have Assisted him in his Battles & have done whatever has been Requird During the War Notwithstanding the War Was intirely his own & we had Nothing to do with it farther than Assisting him as Allies — at the Commencement of the War we were told both by the Commanding Officer at this post & Col.o Butler that all the Rebel prisoners we Should take Should be Our Own Notwithstanding which at your Request we are Determind to collect them all & give them up to You without Exception we will Moreover Send — Messengers to our Younger brethren the Western nations Strongly recommending to them to follow our Example

We are Extremely happy to find that the King has Not forgot his Children in proof of Which you have Brought a Supply of presents for them & you Say a Greater Quantity is Yet to Come we hope & request that we may receive the presents intended for us & that they may not be Applied to the use of White people & at the Same time Charged to us. which has often been the Case & has frequently & undeservedly given us the Character of been Extravagantly Expensive to the King our father —

Brother (10) — You Advise us to be united among ourselves & that our Young men should Desist from all hostilities we thank you much for our Advice which we are convinced is Good & which we have Strictly Observed since we were first informed of the peace. we Shall Still Continue in the Same disposition & bind ourselves in a Small Circle — And we the Chiefs Warriors of the Different nations Assembled here do request of the King our Father not to permit his Loyal Subjects to Wander & Scatter themselves but may encourage them to Settle on Lands on the Opposite Side the Waters And Erect posts for our mutual protection in trade & by this means cement us as one people which we are Assured will be a general Advantage to all Concerned. —

we are now perfectly Convinced of that Regard & Love which we Always imagined you entertained for us & we Do with the Greatest Sincerity Assure you of Every Confidence on our part firmly Convinced that both the Commander in Chief & Yourself Speak to us at All the feelings of Your hearts with Candor & Sincerity — for which we are truly thankfull As you have Relieved our uneasy minds & given us every possible Satisfaction that Circumstances would Admit Of —

A Bell —

Ent.

Indians at Niagara
24 July 1783
to S. J. Johnson

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To Captain Brant

Your message by Skenando and Petrus has been delivered me. You know and all the Indians know that from the beginning of the war, I have been for peace, all the Indian prisoners which fell into our hands I have released, I have constantly given them friendly advise, I wish they had followed it. — I am still for peace and will promote it, and it will take place provided the Indians follow the advice I have given them in my speech which I wish may be clearly interpreted to them, and I also wish that they may no longer suffer themselves to be amused with Idle Stories. ~~which can only [illegible]~~ If they do they will be a ruined people and I do not wish their ruin, but on the contrary that they should be happy

Your Grandfathers and mine were

SCHUY PAPERS.

strictly united in friendship, and it will be your fault if you and I are not so, I am Your Friend

Ph Schuyler

To Capt Brant
July 29 1803

To those Indians of the Six nations who sent a belt & speech by Skenando & Petrus

The belt which Skanando and Petrus delivered on behalf of that ~~[illegible]~~ part of the Six nations who had joined the British in the late war I have received, together with ~~[illegible]~~ of the speech which accompanied it. as ~~written~~ communicated to me by Jacob Reed

I have sent no [illegible] message to those indians as they report since that which Abraham and Hans Crine, ~~[illegible]~~ Skanando and Petrus were charged to deliver, ~~as~~ that was ~~[illegible]~~ calculated to restore peace and ~~harmony~~ friendship. ~~and~~ but as not the least attention was paid to it. I was induced to conclude that those Indians were determined ~~never~~ to bury the hatchet, and therefore that it was needless to speak to them of peace any ~~more~~

Those Indians have so often

may with
~~have~~ reason ~~to~~ doubt
deceived us that I ~~cannot tell~~ If
~~are~~
they ~~were~~ are sincerely ~~inclined~~ disposed to peace [illegible]

may prove it by doing what
but If they are they ~~will do~~ as I shall

advise paper
~~request of~~ them in this ~~letter~~, and

then I will use my best endeavours

~~with~~ that peace may be established

I believe those Indians and

all others are now fully convinced

had followed the
that If they advice ~~had been~~ followed

which ~~the~~ Congress the great council

of the united States gave them thro

for
the commissioners ~~of~~ Indian affairs

late
~~and~~ at the commencement of the war

with great Brittain and which was

very often repeated to them, they

~~would~~ not have ~~been~~ ~~continually~~

disagreeable
experienced the situation they

I might here detail ~~then~~ the wickedness of their conduct and th
~~and~~ how justly they deserve the punishment of the Amer
are now reduced to but as I

have peace in my heart

~~have always heretofore been fea~~ doing many lives &

~~peace~~. I shall say no more of their conduct during the war, but proceed to point out what measures the Indians ought to adopt to obtain a perfect reconciliation.

Peace is made with Great Britain, but Congress ~~from whom the Commissioners~~ without whose permission the Commrs cannot make peace with the Indians ~~must derive the power of making it with the Indians peace or~~ has not yet signified ~~their~~ its pleasure on that ~~question~~ subject, nor must the Indians be surprized ~~at this~~ at this, for altho I do not know it, yet I believe Congress concludes that as those Indians have ~~so~~ long been deaf to peace they still continue it that ~~the~~ Commissioners have not yet any power to ~~conclude a peace with them~~, ~~altho It is already made with Great Britain~~

(a) The reason may be, and probably is

(The Indians know it not, the terms on which it is concluded)

them
encens

[~~altho I do not know it~~] that ~~as~~ the

Indians began the war ~~were the first to commence~~

~~hostilities~~, and afterwards were deaf

to all the offers of peace which were

made them, & Congress may therefore now think it

highly improper to reach out the hand ~~for them to make~~

~~of~~ peace until the Indians formally requested

~~the first offer~~. – It is ~~therefore~~ my

It.–

~~advice~~

Those Indians say they want quickly

to hear from me as quick as possible, I

~~and before [illegible] all these tribes~~

conclude they want my advice, I will

give it them in the spirit of reconcili

:ation. It is this, That they should

send a ~~solemn~~ deputation composed

of ~~chiefs~~ four or five Sachems and as

many principal warriors of each

nation to the commissioners of Indian

affairs, instructed to request that

peace may be re-established between

Speech made to
the Indians on
the 29 July 1793

Sir

I do myself the honor to transmit Congress copy of a message sent ~~me~~ with a belt of wampum by those Indians of the Six Nations who have ~~adhered to~~ the British in the late war, with copy of my Answer; not having received the commands of Congress pointing out ~~all~~ the line of ~~conduct~~ ~~the Commissioners~~ for Ind.ⁿ Affairs ought to hold ~~them~~ with the savages, should make overtures of peace, I was at a loss what sentiments ~~would be~~ ~~proper~~ to convey, to them ~~and~~ but determined on such as I conceived would ~~[illegible]~~ ~~be consonant~~ not wound the dignity of ~~the United States~~ Congress, ~~and on the other~~ nor drive the Indians to despair of obtaining a reconciliation — ~~Thoroughly~~ Persuaded Sir that It cannot ~~be for~~ comport with the Interest of the United States to ~~prosecute~~ continue a war with a people ~~whom we~~ ~~if they are forced to abandon~~ [illegible] their Country whom ~~also we are obliged~~ to ~~[illegible]~~

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

will if they please return ~~that the moment~~ Immediately
~~abandon their country~~, ~~yet it will be but~~
after the force which has expelled ~~expelled~~ them has retired,
~~temporary~~, ~~and at~~ § an expence in my
or ~~[illegible] of the effected and that~~
estimation infinitely beyond the value
of the object, repeated experience has ~~established~~ evinced
the truth of this observation ~~and that most~~ beyond the
possibility of a doubt ~~incontrovertible ground~~, but admitting
~~[illegible]~~
that ~~it were~~ we could, ~~[illegible]~~ at a moderate
expence ~~too~~ and oblige them, to ~~retire~~ ~~permanently~~ inhabit beyond
the limits of the united states, ~~I cannot~~ that
~~advantages of [illegible]~~
~~conceive that no~~ advantages would
none ~~which~~ appear to me
result from it, for ~~first~~ their residing
within those limits, if at peace with us
will not prevent the settlement of the
extensive uncultivated ~~[illegible]~~
country between which ~~what~~ we now occupy
and what they ~~[illegible]~~ be permitted to
retain.— 2dly. It will ~~not~~ be little or
our in future
no obstacle to ~~the settlement~~ improvement of the very
country they may retain, whenever we shall want it, for as our
~~[illegible]~~ settlements ~~Inhabitants~~ approach their country, they must
from the scarcity of game which that approach
will induce, retire farther back, and
dispose of their lands ~~or settle~~ they

§ nor can even
such a temporary
expulsion be
effected without

[illegible]

a great part of the Cayuga Country for the bounty lands promised by Congress to the army, hence the Indians cannot be restored to the country they resided in before the war and I much question whether any consideration but that of ~~[illegible]~~ absolute necessity would induce the Legislature to permit them a residency in any where within the limits of the state - I mention these matters that Congress in any determination on the subject may take them into consideration

In April I ordered two months provision for each of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras as intended to leave Schenectady & return to their own country many have been there and planted corn but most of them were obliged to return for want of provision When the definitive treaty arrives I think It would be proper to give them a quantity of provisions, some ammunition

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

Niagara, Detroit ~~and~~ Michilimakinac &c
and those on the Miamis, & Illanois rivers
must be considerably more respectable
than what would be necessary if we had
peace with the Indians.-

If the weight of these Observations
cannot be counterballanced by others
of rebutting the advantages of continuing in
a state of hostility with the Indians, and I
none occur to me, it will evidently be our
Interest to give peace to the Indians, and
to permit them to reside with in our territory
and as it is probable that the deputation
I have advised will arrive in five or six
weeks at furthest, I could wish the Commissioners
were honored with the Determination of Congress
of before that
and if peace is resolved on; with the terms
as minutely detailed as possible
on which it should be granted, perhaps it
may not be improper to advise congress that
& set apart
the legislature of this state has assigned all
~~great part of~~ the Onondago ~~Country~~ and—

the Americans and the Indians, ~~and~~ ~~impowered to agree on the terms~~.—

That those deputies, as an evidence of the sincere desire the Indians have for peace, should bring with them every prisoner now in ~~their possession~~ ~~h. every~~ the Indians

That ~~when~~ before these deputies ~~arrive at~~ begin the ~~Oneida~~ Journey they should send a runner to me with a message that they are coming, and Informing and when they will ~~arrive~~ probably reach Oneida, and then the commissioners will appoint a place to meet them.— ~~In the mean time~~ ~~I will~~ and that no delay may take place I will immediately write to Congress, and earnestly entreat them Instructions to the Commissioners

about an hundred Axes and as many
hoes, and Camp Kettles, and then direct
them to return home,–.

Thoughts respecting
peace with the
Indians convey
ed to Congress
July 29. 1783

will dwindle comparatively to nothing as all ~~Indians~~ Savages have done who reside in the vicinity of civilized people, and leave us the country without the expence trifling as it may be of a purchase.—

3dly. If expelled they must retire to and reside in the British territory, and so give a strength to that nation which might prove troublesome to us on any future rupture—

4th. They will continually harass our frontiers, and create to us an immoderate expence to defend them,—and how difficult it is to do it effectually against their mode of warfare, we have recent and but too fatal experience

5th. It will totally arrest all the ~~Indian~~ fur trade, as it cannot be expected that if even the British permitted, ~~they~~ Indians would suffer traders to come amongst them from a community which shall have expelled them their country.—

Lastly, ~~that~~ the Garrisons for Oswego

Saratoga July 29th 1783

Sir

I do myself the honor to transmitt Your Excellency, copy of a message sent with a belt of Wampum, by those Indians of the six nations, who have adhered to the British in the late war, with copy of my Answer.

Not having received the commands of Congreſs, pointing out the line of conduct the commiſsioners for Indian affairs ought to hold, when the savages should make overtures for peace, I was at a loſs what sentiments to convey to them, but determined on such, as I conceived would not wound the dignity of Congreſs

nor

drive the Indians to dispair of obtaining a reconciliation, persuaded Sir that it cannot comport with the interest of the united states, to continue a war with a people, whom, altho we may expel from their country, will, if they please, return immediately after the force which has ousted them has retired, nor can even such a temporary expulsion be effected without an expence in my estimation, infinitely beyond the value of the object, repeated experience has evinced the truth of this observation beyond the possibility of doubt; but admitting that we could expel them at a moderate expence, and oblige them to inhabit beyond the limits of the united States what advantages would result from it? none appear to me, for their residing within those limits, if at peace with us, will not prevent the settlement of that extensive uncultivated country which lays between what we now occupy, and what they might be permitted to retain. – It will be little or no obstacle to our future improving the very country they may retain, whenever we shall want it. for as our settlements approach their country, they must, from the scarcity of game which that approach will induce to, retire farther back, and dispose of their lands, unless they dwindle comparatively to nothing, as all savages have done, who gain their sustenance by the chace, when compelled to live in the vicinity of civilized people, and thus leave us the country without the expence of a purchase trifling as that will probably be.

If driven to reside in the British territory, they will add strength to that people in the very quarter where they wish it, and in case of a future rupture, ~~endanger~~ expose the western country to the most dreadful calamities; secure of an asylum, they will harass our frontiers, with nearly as much ease, and with much more inveteracy: their expulsion will totally deprive us of the fur trade, for it cannot be expected that if even the British permitted, the Indians would suffer traders to reside amongst them, fr a community who had deprived them of their country, and which they would always consider as an avaricious enemy; besides at enmity with the Indians, our western garrisons must be so ~~large~~ numerous as to admit of large escorts for "convoys, whether of provisions, or articles of Merchandize; And as the present season is already so far advanced, as to render it doubtful, if all the necessarys for large garrisons can be conveyed to the posts beyond Niagara, may ~~not~~ we not risk the loss of those posts, and the troops which will occupy them in the course of the winter, unless a reconciliation with the Indians takes place;? I have to intreat the pardon of Congress for detailing observations which it is probable every member has made, but I consider it as a duty of office. It is probable that the deputation I have advised will commence their Journey early, perhaps they will be at Oneida in five or six weeks. should Congress determine to give the indians peace, it is to be wished that the Commissioners were honored with

Instructions, detailing the conditions on which it is to be granted.

In deliberating on the subject of peace with the Indians it seems necessary that Congress should have regard to regulations made by this Sta which has assigned, and set apart the Onond Country, and a part of Cayuga, for the boun lands promised to the army, hence the Indians cannot be restored to the entire country they resided in before the war, without clashing with the intentions of the state, nor must I omit observing that it is my opinion, that no consideration, short of absolute necessity, would induce a majority of the legislature to permit the Indians a residence any where within the limits of the state.

+

In April the Oneidas and Tuscaroras

signified a desire to return to their country if they could be furnished with provision and Ammunition, I ordered two months provision for such as should go, about fourty or fifty families went, but are since returned, unable to subsist. I believe it would be prudent to furnish them with provisions to the month of November inclusive with about 250lb of powder, 500lb of lead, 100 camp kettles, as many axes and half as many hatchets and about 100 hoes.

I have the honor to be with great Respect & Esteem

Sir

Your Excellency's

most Obedient Servant

Ph: Schuyler

Excellency the President of Congress

General Schuyler

Read Aug.t 11th 1776 —

Referred to Mr Duane

Mr Peters

Mr Carroll.

Aug 19 — Mr Walton

Mr Wolcott

Messages to & from the Indians —

Oneida July 21st. 1783 609

This Speech delivered to the Oneidas by Skenando and Petrus, from the others of the Six nations, for General Schuyler.

Brother we are sent here by the six nations to find out the messages they have heard now three times, which is from General Washington and General Schuyler, that they should send some of their great men to have some conversation with them, but they never seen no belt yet, that is the reason they have not come

Brother now they are ready to come whensoever they see one of the Americans with the belt and letter in his hand, also with our brethren the Oneidas — They heard good news from the Americans which made their heart feel glad that they may return every nation to their native lands, But they can't believe it yet because they have not seen the thing which always confirms the matter spoken of, they have also heard bad news with the good by some young ~~Indian's~~ men from Ondedaing

One reason is why they did not come befor now Colo: Butler expected Sir John Johnson now this long time but they were out of pattion waitting for him, so they sent us two to find on the matter they heard so many times, Colo Butler have a great desire that the American should make up with the Six nations, the Six nations want to hear from General Schuyler as quick as possible. they can belief what he says

Captain Josef Brant Spoke to us as we was coming. himself alone.- as follows Brothers be in earnest to ~~[illegible]~~ deliver that Speech you have heard, now I speak a little, I want General Schuyler should certainly write, If he is for peace. and if says so I belief it, and If he use me well I will take fast hold of his hand and I shall forever be as strong friend to the Americans as my grand fathers was to the King, whose firm friendship to the King has undone me

wrote by me Jacob Reed by desire of
Shenanda and Petrus

To those Indians of the six nations who sent a speech and belt by Skenando and Petrus :

The belt which Skenando and Petrus delivered on behalf of that part of the six nations who had joined the british in the late war, I have received together with the speech which accompanied it, recommended and patronized by said belt.

I have not sent any message to those Indians since that which Abraham, Hans Crine, Skenando and Petrus were charged to deliver, that was calculated to restore peace and friendship but as not the least attention was paid to it, and the Indians continued hostilities, I was led to conclude those Indians were determined never to bury the hatchet, and therefore conceived it needless to speak of peace to them any more; And as they have so often deceived us and violated their promises I have good reason to doubt if they are now sincerely inclined to peace, but if they really are, they will prove it by doing what I shall advise them in this Answer to their Message, and that I will use my best endeavours that peace may be established

I believe those Indians and all others are now fully convinced that if they had followed the advice which Congress the great council of the united States advised the commissioners for Indian affairs to give them at the commencement of the war with Britain, and which was often repeated to them, they would not have experienced the disagreeable situation they are now reduced to, I could enter into a long detail of the wickedness of your conduct and shew how justly you deserve the resentment of the united States, but hoping that you sincerely repent, and having peace in my heart I shall close my lips at present and say no more of your conduct during the war but proceed to point out what measures you ought to pursue to obtain peace and a perfect reconciliation with the Americans —

Peace is made with the King of Great Britain you know it, and you also know the terms on which it is concluded, but Congress, without whose permission the commissioners are not authorized to make peace with you have not yet signified their intentions on that subject. I am not surprized at this, as the reason may be, and probably is, that the Indians began the war and were afterwards deaf to all offers of peace which were repeatedly made them, and Congress may now think it improper to reach out the hand of peace until you first request it and this you should do.—

You say you want to hear from me as quick as possible, I therefore conclude you want my advice, I will give it you in the spirit of reconciliation, It is this, that you must send a deputation composed of four or five Sachems and as many principal warriors from each nation to the commissioners of Indian affairs instructed to request that peace may be reestablished between the Americans and you

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let these deputies as an evidence of the sincere desire they have for peace bring with them every prisoner old and young now in the power of the Indians — before these deputies begin the journey let them send a runner to me with a message that they are coming informing me when they will probably reach Oneida and when in return the deputies will know where they are to meet the Commissioners

I shall in the mean time intreat Congress to give power to the Commissioners to treat of peace with you —

The Commissioners have often warned you not to listen to idle tales, I once more warn you not to [illegible] but act as you are now advised, I confirm my words with a belt

Saratoga 29th July 1783 Ph. Schuyler

A Council held with the Chiefs and Warriors Six Nation Indians and their Confederates at the Fire kindled at the Onandago Settlement

Tosioha 2d. July 1783 –

Present

Lieut. Colonel Butler

Lieuts. { Bowen
Dockstader
Jacob Servos }

Wm. Wilkinson Secretary
Wm. N. Stevens Interpreter

Abeel a Seneca Chief spoke as follows:

Brothers —— Two of our young Men (Oneidas) went from thei Village without the advice of any of our Chiefs, to Cana-warohare (a Village settled by some Oneidas who h acted in favor of the Americans during this War) as a Visit to their Relations and Acquaintances – shortly af their arrival, Thirty of the Americans came to the sa Village and inform'd they were on their way to view the Six-Nation-Indian Country, and to build a House at Onandago for General Schuyler – next morning th Chiefs came and Saluted the two young men in the usual manner, after which they expressed their sorro that the Chiefs of the Six Nations did not attend a Council with General Schuyler last spring agreeabl to his request. They then repeated General Schuyl Speech in Council, as follows –

Brothers —— I am directed by Congress to call you togethe
' and inform you that Peace is at last agreed upon
' between the Kings of Great Britain, France, Spain and

Americans — The Great Spirit above has helped and given us Succeſs, and with the aſsistance of France have conquered the King of England — We are now Masters of this Island, and can dispose of the Lands as we think proper or most convenient to ourselves — That the King of England can never hereafter make the least claim to any part of it — At the Commencement of this War many of our People left us, some went to Niagara and others to different Places where the King's Troops lay; these People have forfeited every part of their Lands and property to Us for so doing, which must be a convincing proof that we are the Conquerors — — At that time I requested the Six Nations to lay still and not interfere in this War, but no attention was paid to my advice, they therefore are now in the same situation with those People who left us, their Lands forfeited in the same manner — As we are the Conquerors we claim the Lands and property of all the White People as well as the Indians who have left and fought against us — We enquired of the King what he intended to do for the Indians, as we expected that he would have been very particular about them, He being the Person who should have considered their situation; but the King answered, *What can I do?* *nothing*. *You have conquered me, therefore do with them what you please*.

"However, it is not yet so bad with the Indians, as they can move acroſs the Lakes, those parts still belong to the King) — I desire you (the Oneidas) to acquaint the Chiefs, &c. of the Six Nations with what I have now said; and that they have no aſsistance to expect from either the King or Congreſs in future ... All the upper Posts are now our property, and I expect to go in a short time to speak to the

' six Nation Indians, and should they not meet and give me f
: satisfaction between this place and Fort Stanwix on my way;
' I shall then prepare myself as a Warrior, proceed through
' their Country, to humble their Prides, and make them my
' Prisoners, &c. — I shall look upon the Oneidas & Cayugas
' in a more favorable light than the other Nations, as Tw
' of the Cayugas have been with me during the War — Th
' six Nations must not by any means whatever be stept by
: Colonel Butler, and should He at any time fall into our
' hands, he undoubtedly will be hanged.'

When the Speech was delivered to Brigadr. Genl. Maclean, He contradicted it flatly, and declared to the six Nations, that it was False and fabricated by some designing bad People — That He cou'd aſsure them, such a Speech never had been made by General Schuyler, and that he never authorized any other Person to make it for him: And He (Brigr. Genl. Maclean) could aſsure the Six Nations, that he did not believe the United States had any intention of driving the Indians out of their Country, that being a measure contrary to their own Interest — And That they were not to believe any such idle Stories, but shut their Ears against such designing bad People — To listen only to what He would tell them, and He should always tell them the Truth. &c

I tranſmitted General Schuyler a copy of this from Albany on the 2d. of Auguſt 1783 — E. Douglaſs

A Council held with the
Chiefs and Warriors of the
Six Nation Indians and
their Confederates, at
Tosicha 2d. July 1783 —

No. 2

Montreal 7th August 1783

Sir

I have the honor to report to your Excellency my return to this place the 5th Instant and the satisfaction to assure you that I left the Indians, to the amount of sixteen hundred Eighty five, at Niagara as well pleased as ever they were seen to be, and as well reconciled to their present uncertain and painfull situation as could be wished — Indeed their Conduct thro.out the whole of our proceedings was such as did them greater in the Opinion of every person there, and would have done honor to a more enlightened and polished peoples and no one could have more reason to approve of their behaviour than myself —

During the fifteen days I was at Niagara I lost no Opportunity either in Publick, or private with those I thought had most weight, to endeavour to remove their doubts, and to explain to them every thing that could tend to lessen their apprehensions

His Excellency General Haldimand —

and

to give them a due sense of the Kings Paternal care
of them— and I flatter my self that I left them
perfectly satisfied as may appear by our proceedings
which I am getting a fair Copy of and shall transmit
to your Excellency by Mondays Post—

I have the honor to be
With great respect and Esteem
Sir
your Excellencys
most Obedient and
most Humble Servant
John Johnson

BRITISH MUSEUM

From 1780

Sir John Johnson

7th Augt Recd 12th

Names 91	Remarks
Six Prisoners over the Line 6	Three small Childn
Christopher Scott	Prisoner
John Scott	ditto
James Swiney	ditto
Jacob Van Garde	ditto
Joseph Newman	ditto
Jospher Hawkins	ditto
6	
Total 103	

Sir— Niagara 8th August 1783

Herewith I have the Honor to inclose to your Excellency a Duplicate of the Contingent Accompt of the Upper Posts for the last Six months Amounting to £123 10 Shillings New York Currency; and I have of this date Drawn Upon your Excellency for that Sum in the usual manner payable to the Order of Messrs Douglas and Symington.— I have also the honor to transmit to Your Excellency Copies of three Letters I just received from Lieut Colonel Depeyster, The first No 1 dated the 24th July and No 2 and 3 both dated the 1st August, and the Copy of an Indian Councill. Lieut Colonel Depeyster in his Letter of the 24th July, Says that the deficiency of Flour to Compleat the Upper Posts may be purchased at Detroit, I have wrote to him last week desiring him to let me know for your Excellencys information what Flour sold at per hundred weight, at Detroit, & that in case it was reasonable, it was Possible, that you might order Some to be Purchased, how soon I have his answer I shall transmit it to your Excellency

In Some of my former Letters I had the Honor to Mention the manner in which Indian Presents, were Sent in from Canada, Sir John Johnson being here, I had no right to Enquire, but your Excellency will See that Lieut Colonel Depeyster Complains of his not receiving Letter or Invoice, and that the Goods appear to have been Plundered; all I can Say is that we could not get from the Indian Department any List or return of the Number of Bails, Barrells, or Packages Sent to Detroit, and on that Account, that no Regular Pass

General Haldimand

Could be made out as usual, which puts it out of my Power to give Lieut Colonel DePeyster any kind of information, the Gentleman that had the Charge of the Indian Presents is now gone to Detroit, and its to be hoped he will be able to Clear itself, why he did not go with the Goods I cannot say—

In Spite of all my Efforts, I am Sorry to inform Your Excellency that there has been a much larger quantity of Rum Expended than I could wish, in about Sixteen days not less than 192 Gallons Sixty Gallons of that quantity Colonel Buttler Carried with him to the Missisaga Country, where he is gone with presents for 500 Missisaga Indians. I was very Glad that Colonel Buttler made this Proposal as it will prevent their Coming here, and save a quantity of Provision: Colonel Buttler Carried two of of his own People with him, that he can depend upon to Leave in that Country, to this Proposal I Consented only Untill your Excellencys farther Pleasure Should be known, which I request I may have Soon, I also request that you may be pleased to Signify to me for my Guidance, what may be thought a reasonable quantity of Rum Monthly for the Six nations for it appears to me that the People at the head of Indian department Seem to Vie with Each other who shall Expend most Rum, and the great Chiefs are Striving who Shall Drink most Rum —

I have the Honor herewith to Send your Excellency a Return of the Number of People in In the Indian department drawing Provisions at this post the Number of Officers is 23, and 13 forresters in all 36, their families & Servants amounts 62 — a Coppy of their Return I gave to Sir John Johnson when here, — 40 Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations are going to Detroit ~~to~~ morrow, in Order to meet the Creeks, & Cherokees &c, and to form a treaty of alliance and friendship together, their was settled by Sir John Johnson when here, Mr Dease & an other Indian Officer goes with them

I have the honor to be most respectfully

Your Excellency's
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

1783.

From

B. Genl. Maclean

8th August Recd. 20th.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Niagara 14th August 1783

Gentlemen,

From the low rate Rum is now sold in Canada, and from the quantity already on this communication, I am induc'd to believe it must soon become much cheaper here — I am also well convinced, that (under the restrictions the Merchants at this Place are at present) I can never dispose of what I have on hands, but at a considerable loss, it being laid in much higher than the present price is; I therefore look upon it that (in justification to myself and correspondents) I am to take every just measure to dispose of it to the best advantage I can (consistent with the Commanding Officer's pleasure) without partiality to any one.— I therefore propose to sell Rum at fourteen Shillings pr. Gallon; and will engage to supply the Troops at twelve Shillings pr. Gallon, provided I may be allow'd one shilling pr. gallon for drawing, as the Sutler is. I hope this proposal will not be consider'd as done in design'd prejudice to any one, but merely as the only measure left to prevent a considerable loss which I must otherwise sustain.

I rely Gentlemen, on your Judgement to decide on this matter, as I am well convinced of your desire to assist every true British subject under your Protection, impartially, as well as your study for the general good of the Garrison under your Command.

(signed) Saml. Street

Brigr. General Maclean &
Lieut. Colonel Dundas }

Montreal 11th August 1783

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the Proceedings of the several Meetings held with the Six Nations &c at Niagara, and with the Messasagas at Carleton Island; by the latter your Excellency will Observe that some uneasiness has arisen Among them in consequence of a Report prevailing that a Number of the Six Nations intended settling in the Neighbourhood of Cataraqui — they seem to have no Objection to White People settling there, but say that if their Brothers the Six Nations come there, they are so Numerous, they will Overrun their hunting Grounds, and Oblige them to retire to New and distant Grounds, not so good or convenient to them — these Objections however may easily be removed by a purchase of such part of their

His Excellency
General Haldimand

Country

As Your Excellency may think Necessary for the use of the Mohawks and Others who may wish to Establish themselves on that side of the Lake I should Imagine a purchase of the Lands Including the Islands from the Bay of Kenty downwards, and Including the Crown Lands, Would be sufficient to Answer every purpose both for Loyalists and Indians —

I beg leave to request that as the Officers and c Men of my Regiment were the foremost in Opposing His Majesty's Enemies and the first that joined his Forces in this Province, they may be Indulged with the first choice of Lands, should any be granted to them as they have had reason to expect, from the Proclamation Issued at the Commencement of the War —

Captain Brant, John, Isaac And a Number of other Deputies from the Six Nations, accompanied by Lieut. Colonel Butler, or Mr Dease were to set off for Detroit soon after I left Niagara to Meet the Cherokees, Creeks and c Western Indians assembled there

In

Orders to communicate what had passed at Niagara, and to Strengthen their Confederacy by a Union of all the Nations —

Major Scott having been with me on my Tour, and being Well informed of everything relative to the Situation, Disposition and Temper the Indians are in at present, as Well as of many particulars relative to the Posts he begs leave to Offer his services should your Excellency think it Necessary, to be the bearer of any report you may think proper to Make to His Majestys Minister on this Occasion. And as there is little Service for him to be employed in at present, and it may be of great Advantage to him, I wish his Offer may meet with Your Excellencys approbation.

I have the honor to be with
Great respect
Sir
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant
John Johnson

From 1783.

B. Gen^{l}. Sir J. Johnson

11th. Aug^{t}. Rec^{d}. 12th —

[illegible] Congress [illegible]

Gentlemen

[illegible] the same [illegible]

a Messenger from Congress to the Southern Indians, was carried as Prisoner from Town to Town without being allowed to speak to the Indians on the 20th of the same Month he found means to apply privately to me, & I agreed to take Charge of the Letters & bring it expressly [illegible] which I agreed to do; He likewise desired me to make a just Report of the Situation & Disposition of the Southern Indians after speaking to them, & informing them of the contents of the Letters & Resolutions & particularly the offers of Peace & Friendship from Congress & their Desire to meet the Indians at any Time & Place they should appoint, in order to settle the Terms of Peace & Friendship.

On my speaking to the [illegible] Chiefs they expressed great Satisfaction with the Contents of the said Message, & appointed to meet Commissioners from Congress at [illegible] the 4th day of their present Moon [illegible] agreeably to [illegible]

Nations [illegible]

[illegible] take

from [illegible] the [illegible] Indian [illegible] as

well [illegible] for [illegible] but [illegible] may

[illegible] may [illegible] will [illegible]

of their [illegible];

Resolve to [illegible] the [illegible]

they have [illegible]

readily give up a part of their

Country [illegible]

make [illegible] the [illegible]

of the United States [illegible]

ver the Boundary which may

be agreed on —

It is my opinion that if Congress adopt this System, & direct an honorable conduct, to be observed towards the Nations, it will save Thousands of lives, & much Money. I beg pardon for [illegible] my opinion but a sense of Duty [illegible] me to take this liberty; & I hope I shall soon be able to visit back the nations & that Congress will send some [illegible] they [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] form, other than

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] immediate

As [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Language, [illegible]

to draw them out of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Confidence enough to repair once more to their own Towns, rather than on our Frontiers.

There remain in the Seneca Towns about 100 American Prisoners who [illegible] have delivered up to us immediately — As many of these are young People, fast degenerating into Savages, & forgetting their own Language, would it not be wis [illegible] of the Indians without Delay & restore them to their Relati & to their Country? I'm every thing ~~that I can do~~ be pleased to command me — ~~Ebenezer~~

Ebenezer Allen

etter Augst 12. 1782
Ebenezer Allan

ead Augt 12. —

Referred to Mr Duane.
Mr Peters
Mr Carroll
Aug 19. Mr Hawkins
Mr A Lee

To

His Excellency

The President of Congreſs

[illegible]

Messenger from [illegible]

[illegible]

in the [illegible] of the same [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

with the contents of [illegible]

Michigan Legislature [illegible]

[illegible] from [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

but a Steamer [illegible]

to take [illegible]

shall soon [illegible] back

The stations [illegible]

send down [illegible]

[illegible]

435

[illegible] immediate [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

those remain [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of these or some

[illegible]

[illegible] property [illegible]

[illegible]

of the Indians restored [illegible]

& restore them to their [illegible]

to their Country [illegible]

[illegible] be pleased

to commence [illegible]

Ebenezer [illegible]

Letter Augt 12. 1780
Ebenezer Allen
Read Aug 12.
Referred to Mr Duane
Mr Peters
Mr Carroll
Aug 19. Mr Houston
Mr A. Lee

To
His Excellency
The President of Congress

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1783.

From

B. Genl. Maclean

18th Augt. Recd. 30th —

BRITISH MUSEUM

(Copy) 240

Detroit 18th August 1783

Sir,

Mr. Dease delivered me your three Letters, I shall attend to the contents as far as regards the Commandant of Detroit — the interior Oeconomy of the Indian Department being now under the direction of Mr. McKee. It will not be possible to assemble the Chiefs in time at Detroit; and as I have promised in Council that I would send the Indian presents to Sandusky (which will save Lodgings, Fuel, Rum, and Provisions) the Six Nations propose to speak to their Brethren at that place, in presence of the Agents, Secretary, &c.

When we came to survey the Trunks and Boxes I suspected to have been pillaged, there appeared to be Eighteen pieces of Linen taken out of some of them, and roots of Trees and Sodds put in to make weight; and 26 pieces [illegible] out of one Box. — — I have had the 7 Barrels of Rum for Michilimack. Surveyed on their being landed on the Wharf —

It is in vain that we write any more from this quarter for Medicines — Doctor Kennedy or his Purveyors seem determined we shall have no Medicines, and when they have complied with a demand, it was in so scanty a way, that not half the quantity was sent — we are now quite out; and should have been so before, if we had not borrowed some — perhaps they may be laying on the communication.

I should not be surprized if a Flag was to come from Fort Pitt to demand the Prisoners at Detroit, in which case I would be glad to know your Orders how to act — The Prisoners in question are such as remained behind to collect their Children, scattered in the Indian Country — If you would chuse to have such as have got their Children sent down to save Provisions, it shall be done.

(Signed) At. S. De Peyster

Brigr. General Maclean.

BRITISH MUSEUM

1783

Copy of a Letter from
Lt. Col. De Peyster to Brigr.
General Maclean, dated
at Detroit 18th Augt. 83

Sir Niagara 21st August 1783 -

241

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency, the Copy of a Letter I had from Captain Gomersall of the Royal Yorkers Commanding at Oswego, by which your Excellency will see that these People persist in coming to this Country, tho they Ought to know that I can pay no regard to the Paſses of General Washington or Governor Clinton — Caſsety the Person Mentiond was Settled at Detroit, and was Sent down to Canada in Irons Some Years ago as being an Outrageous Rebell, no doubt Major Lernoult knows him well, By the orders I have given they Shall all be Stopped at Oswego tile I hear from Your Excellency

I have the honor to be with respect
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient And
Most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

General Haldimand

Princeton 18 August 1783

Sir

In obedience to the instructions you honored me with on the 5th of May last, I have uſed every endeavour in my power to execute in the fulleſt manner your orders, and give effect to your wiſhes; and though I have not had all the ſucceſs I at firſt hoped, I flatter myſelf the following report will not only ſhew that I have attempted all in my power, but that eſſential good Conſequences may juſtly be hoped from my endeavours to obey your Commands —

On the 7th of June I left Fort Pitt and travelling about two hundred miles by the old trading path, arrived on the 16th at the Delaware & Huron ſettlements on the Sanduſky River; but before I reached the Villages I fell in with two young Delawares who had known me formerly, appeared rejoiced to ſee me, and conducted me to the principal Town of that Tribe. — Captain Pipe who is the principal Man of that Nation, received me with every demonſtration of joy, welcomed me in the moſt friendly manner and treated me with greater civility than is uſual with them in time of profound Peace. In a ſpeech of gratulation which he delivered on my arrival, he felicitated me & my Companions on our ſafety through a long and dangerous Wilderneſs, & himſelf, on ſeeing his brethren of the United States once more enter his Door in a peaceable & friendly manner; but told me, as his Nation was not the principal one, nor had voluntarily engaged in the War, it would be proper for me firſt to communicate my buſineſs to the Hurons & Shawneſe, and afterwards to the Delawares. That he had announced my arrival to the Hurons, and expected ſuch of them as were at home would very ſhortly be over to ſee and welcome me. This ſoon happened as he had expected, but as none of their Chiefs were preſent, I declined ſpeaking publickly to them, knowing that I could receive no authentic Anſwer; and unwilling to expend unneceſſarily the Wampum I had prepared for this occaſion. I informed them for their ſatisfaction of the peace with England, and told them that the United States were diſpoſed to be in friendſhip with the Indians alſo — deſired them to ſend for their head men, particularly for the Half-King who was gone to Detroit; — to ſend alſo to the Shawneſe and ſuch of the Six Nations and

Delawares as live on the Miami River; and that when theſe were all preſent, I would deliver to them publickly the particulars of the buſineſs I was charged with. –

They all readily agreed to this proposal, and returned to their homes apparently very well ſatisfied; but the Hurons nevertheleſs failed ſending to Detroit, partly thro' the want of authority in the old men preſent, and partly through the aſsurances of the Wife of the Half King who was confident her Husband would be home in two Days, and therefore a journey which would require ſix or ſeven was altogether unneceſsary. –

The Pipe sent away for thoſe on the Miami agreeable to his promiſe, and learning that Mr Elliot, one of the Agents in the Indian Department reſided with the Shawneze, and must neceſsarily be acquainted with my coming, I wrote to him by the Pipe's Expreſs, requesting him to concur with our Meſsenger in communicating to the Shawneze, that I was charged with a meſsage from the United States and deſired them to attend as ſoon as poſsible. – I also gave him an invitation to be preſent if he could make it convenient. Though I promiſed to myſelf very little from this Letter, I knew it could do no poſsible harm – and though I did not hope he would give himſelf any trouble to ſerve me, I thought the poſsibility that the compliment of it might prevent his opposition worth the trouble of writing it. –

On the evening of the 18th a Runner arrived from the Miami with intelligence that Mr Elliot had received diſpatches from Detroit announcing the arrival of Sir John Johnſon at that place, – that in conſequence, the Chiefs & Warriors were desired to repair thither in a few Days, where a Council would be held with them. They were alſo directed to take with them the War or Tomahawk Belts, which had been delivered to them by the King to ſtrike the Americans with. This was an intimation which had been long expected but never till now received; for though they had been repeatedly forbid to continue at War against the Americans the Tomahawk had still remained in their hands, which is a deviation from the ancient Customs of the Indians, and therefore the more aſtonishing to them. –

I perceived that this invitation would neceſsarily draw off a number of the principal Men, but determined to wait the return of our Meſsenger before I would take any further Reſolution, and in this Suſpense I continued till the evening of the 22. when he returned with ſpeeches from the Chiefs in that Quarter, importing that they had made every preparation for coming agreeable to our request to hear what I had to say to them; but just when they were ready to mount their Horſes, they were stopped by the arrival of ten Men who preceded a body of ſixty other ſouthern Indians coming upon buſineſs from the Nations East & North of the Ohio and Miſsiſsippi Rivers. That in conſequence of their coming they would be obliged to delay their viſit to us for a few Days, but would not fail to come ſo ſoon as they heard the buſineſs of theſe People — could not however determine how ſoon.

The intervention of this unexpected delay, — the uncertainty when it would end, — the anxiety of the Sanduſky Indians to obey the ſummons from Detroit, the abſence of the Half King who was now no longer expected till after the Treaty there, and the certainty of receiving no anſwer when he was not in Council, induces me to yield to the importunity of the Pipe, and attend to his repreſentations. He preſsed me to accompany him to Detroit, aſsuring me that it would be uſeleſs to wait the coming of the Indians from the Miami, that they would ſpend their time in uſeleſs Counſelling there till the Treaty at Detroit would come on, and that even if I could aſsemble them I could obtain nothing from the Interview — That if the Half King was preſent he would not undertake to give me an anſwer without conſulting the Chiefs of the Huron Tribe at Detroit, and that theſe would determine on nothing without first asking the advice of their Father the Commandant.

Finding that I had ~~but~~ little to hope from continuing at Sanduſky, and likely to effect as little by viſiting the Miami if my Horſes had even been able to have performed the Journey, I determined to proceed to Detroit by the nearest Route, though I began to be doubtful I ſhould not ſucceed to my wiſhes there; determined however to leave nothing

unattempted/

4)

unattempted which promised even a probability of success. — I concurred with the Pipe in a Message to the Miami Indians, desiring that rather than wait to hear the dispatches of these Southern Indians, they should advise them to continue their Journey to Detroit where they would certainly meet the Six Nations, to whom their business must be ultimately delivered, as the Deputation in consequence of which they had performed so long and difficult a journey, had originally proceeded from them — We desired them to send us an answer in three Days what resolution they would take — and when we should meet them where the roads unite, that we might go together to Detroit —

We waited till the 29th in hopes of receiving an answer but none came, tho' we had several Messages, some intimating that they could not come over to us, and desiring the Hurons & Delawares to attend at the Shawneze Towns — Other accounts said the Chiefs of that Nation were gone to Detroit

We now made every preparation for our departure, but fearing I might not again have so good an opportunity, I made use of this to give the Pipe every information respecting my business, and to explain to him the Preliminary Articles of peace, which I found had not only never been communicated to them by authority, but that the accidental information they had occasionally received had been in some respects contradicted by the Officers of the Crown, particularly that part which related to the evacuation of the Posts on the Lakes —

I left Sandusky on the 30th accompanied by the Pipe and two other Indians in addition to my former Companions, and travelled onward to Detroit till the afternoon of the 1st of July, when we were met by Mr Elliot and three other persons from that place, whom the Commandant had dispatched for the purpose of conducting us thither: The Indians who had left the Towns after my arrival, had given the Intelligence at Detroit; and the Letter I had written to Mr Elliot had also been carried there by some of those from the Miamis. In consequence of this Colonel DePeyster had sent Mr Elliot to me with a Letter No 1 —

I was now nearly half way from Sandusky to Detroit. I could neither take nor alter a resolution in consequence of this Letter, but continued my journey with my new Companions —

and

till the 4th when I arrived at Detroit, where I was received with much politeneſs and treated with great civility by the Commandant, to whom I delivered Your Letter, ſhewed your inſtructions and preſsed for an opportunity of communicating them to the Indians as ſoon as might be. He profeſsed the ſtrongeſt desire of bringing about a reconciliation between the United States and the ſeveral Indian Nations, — declared that he would willingly promote it all in his power; but that until he was authoriſed by his ſuperiors in Command, he could not consent that any thing ſhould be ſaid to the Indians relative to the boundary of the United States; for though he knew from the Kings Proclamation that the War with America was at an end, he had had no official information to juſtify his ſuppoſing the States extended to this place; and therefore could not conſent to the Indians being told so; eſpecially as he had uniformly declared to them, that he did not know theſe Posts were to be evacuated by the English. He had no objection, he ſaid, to my communicating the friendly offers of the United States, — and would chearfully make known to them the ſubſtance of Your Letter to him. —

In the morning of the 5th I received an intimation from Colonel De Peyſter, through Capt. McKee, that it was his wish I would go on to Niagara ſo ſoon as I had recovered from the fatigues of my journey. In consequence of this I waited on him in the afternoon, and preſsed with greater warmth than yesterday, the neceſsity of my ſpeaking to the Indians and receiving an anſwer from them. I preſsed him to ſuffer me to proceed on my buſineſs without his interference, and offered him my word that I would say nothing to them respecting the limits of the States, but confine myſelf to the offer of Peace, or choice of War, and the invitation to Treaty. — He would not retract his Reſolution without further Orders from the Commander in Chief, and I was obliged to ſubmit however unwillingly: But muſt do him the juſtice to acknowledge that he made every offer of civility and ſervice, except that which he conſidered inconſiſtent with his duty.

On the 6th I attended the Council which Col. De Peyſter held with the Indians, to which he had yesterday invited me. After delivering the buſineſs of his calling them together; he published to them your Letter and preſsed them to continue in the ſtrictest Amity with the ſubjects of the United States, — repreſented to them the folly of continuing hoſtilities, and aſsured them that he could by no means give them any future aſsistance against the people of America —

At this meeting were the Chiefs of Eleven Indian Nations, comprehending all the Tribes as far ſouth as the Wabash. They were Chipawas, Otawas, Wyandots or Hurons, Shawneze, Delawares, Kickaboos, Ouiachtanoos, Miamis Poutawotamies and Piankiſhas with a part of the Senecas; most of whom gave evident marks of their ſatisfaction at ſeeing a ſubject of the United States in that Country. They carried their civilities so far that my lodging was all day ſurrounded with crowds of them when at home, and the ſtreets lined with them to attend my going abroad; that they might have an opportunity of ſeeing and ſaluting me, which they did not fail to do in their best manner, with every demonstration of joy —

On the morning of the 7th I took my leave of Colonel De Peyster, after having received more Civilities from him than the limits of this report will ſuffer me to enumerate; but not 'til I had the honor of writing to you by my Guide, whom I directed to return to Fort Pitt ſo ſoon as the Pipe ſhould be ready to return to Sanduſky, on whom I depended for his ſafe-conduct thither, and to provide one to accompany him to Fort Pitt —

I arrived at Niagara on the 11th was introduced to General Maclean who was prepared for my coming, delivered him Colonel De Peyster's Letter, and was received with every mark of attention; but he declined entering upon any buſineſs this Day —

In the morning I waited again on the General at his requeſt. He aſked for my inſtructions which I produced, and afterwards, at his requeſt, the Reſolve of Congreſs alluded to. He expreſsed an earnest deſire that the Indians should live in peace with the United States, declared that he had most effectually put a ſtop to all hoſtilities, and had already given you this information; — that he would be anſwerable for their future good conduct provided they were not molested by us, — regretted that he had not at preſent ſuch information from below as would juſtify his conversing with me, or even permitting me to call the Indians together — that he had every reaſon to expect Sir John Johnſon very soon, who he ſuppoſed would bring ſuch inſtructions as would remove every difficulty, — that however he conſidered the purport of my meſsage anticipated by the pains which had been taken to diſpose the Indians to Peace, which appeared to be the grand object of Congreſs —

In caſe Sir John did not arrive in two or three Days as he expected, he propoſed to me the alternative of continuing downward to the Commander in Chief, or of furniſhing him with Copies of my inſtructions and the Reſolve of Congreſs which he would tranſmit to him for his orders thereon. He lamented that miſchievous people among us took too much pains to alarm the minds of the Indians in this quarter, by inventing and propagating Speeches, which the Indians were taught to believe came from Perſons in power among the Americans. In proof of this he produced the proceedings of a Council lately held with the Indians, which contain an alarming Speech ſaid to have been ſent to them by General Schuyler. At my request he gave me a Copy of it with his own remarks at the bottom No 2. —

In conſequence of this Speech, and his aſsurances to the Indians, the Six Nations had ſent to that part of the Oneida Tribe which had remained in the interest of the States, forbidding them to bring any future meſsages but ſuch as were written, or otherwiſe viſible in Belts or Strings. That they would be glad to hear in this manner whatever the United States had to ſay to them —

Colonel Butler the Superintendant at the Post was ſent for and corroborated every thing that the General ſaid of the peaceable diſposition of the Indians, unleſs they were compelled to a contrary conduct by the Americans ſeizing on their Lands which both aſserted the Six Nations would never quietly ſubmit to. They recommended the meaſure of Congreſs' ſending ſome perſon to give them aſsurances reſpecting their Lands, if it was their intention to leave them to the Natives, and the General offered to promote it with all his intereſt, to be anſwerable for the ſafety of the Commiſsioner, and alſo engage for the Indians good behaviour, and willingneſs to meet the Commiſsioners of Congreſs at any place after receiving ſuch aſsurance

Captain Brant came from the Mohawk Village to ſee me and was introduced by the General, in whoſe preſence we had a converſation on the ſubject of the Indian's Lands. — Brant inſisted that they would make a point of having them ſecured before they would enter into any farther or other Treaty. In the evening I had a private conference with him at his own request in which I explained to him in the moſt circumſtantial manner every thing relating to my buſineſs with the Indians and had a good deal of friendly Argument with him on the ſubject, too long to inſert here —

On the evening of the 13th I received a Note from the General requesting a Copy of my Inſtructions &c: to ſend to the Commander in Chief to facilitate buſineſs. No 3. I ſent him word that he ſhould be obeyed, and early in the morning began to execute my promiſe, but before I had finiſhed copying them, I received a verbal meſsage that he wiſhed to ſee me at his Quarters. I finiſhed the Copies and waited on him with them. —

He informed me that he had ſent for me to ſhew me the Copy of a Letter he was writing to Colonel DePeyster. — It contained inſtructions to that Gentleman in conſequence of my repreſentation of the murders committed by the Western Indians in the courſe of the last Spring, and ſince, by his account, they had been poſitively forbid to be guilty of any ſuch outrage. He preſsed Col. DePeyster very earnestly to examine minutely into this affair, — to forbid the Indians in the most poſitive manner to be guilty of such future misconduct, — to order them to deliver up immediately ſuch Priſoners as they had captured through the Spring, into the hands of himself or his Officers, — and farther to tell them that if they did not deſiſt from theſe practices the British Troops would join the Americans to puniſh them —

He afterward read me the Copy of a Letter which he had written you in anſwer to yours by Mr Bull. Not doubting that this Letter is in your poſseſsion, I only mention it as it was the introduction to an addreſs to me containing the ſame ſentiments, which ended in an intimation that I might return home as ſoon as I thought proper, — that whenever I pleaſed he would furniſh me with a boat and Men to carry me to Oswego, would afford me every other aſsistance in his power, and write to Major Roſs the Commandant at that place to give me every aſsistance I should require –

I ſoon concluded that this invitation to leave the place aroſe from the importunacy of the Indians to hear publickly the meſsage which my coming had promiſed them; and his refusing permiſsion to Captain Brant to take me on a visit to the Mohawk Castle convinced me of the justice of this concluſion –

I employed ſuch arguments as I expected would be most likely to prevail on him to permit me to ſpeak to the Chiefs publickly before my departure, and anſwered, (as I thought) all his objections, one of which was to that part of my inſtructions which ſaid the King had been "compelled to make peace", which he ſaid would convey to the Indians the Idea of his being conquered, and might induce them to an inſolence of behaviour that would become disagreeable to him and perhaps injurious to the ſervice. To remove every exception on this head I offered to ſuppreſs the word "compelled", but he avoided giving me any direct anſwer to this propoſal; inſisted much on the pacific diſposition of the Indians, again pledged himſelf for their behaviour; aſsured me of their deſire to cultivate the friendship of the Americans, and declared that he was authoriſed by the Chiefs to tell me so. He then informed me that previous to my arrival the Chiefs had applied to him to write to his Excellency General Washington on their behalf, with offers of friendship, and regretted that he had not such orders as would justify him in doing it, especially before the Superintendant General had made the proper communications to the Indians on the part of the Crown –

Frustrated in every attempt to obtain a public audience of the Indians, and receive their anſwer to your meſsage I wrote to General Maclean on the 16th for his refuſal in writing (No 4) which he immediately gave me (No 5), and on the ſame day I set off for Oswego, after having experienced from General Maclean every ſpecies of polite attention, except that which duty as well as inclination bid me most wish for; and every civility from his Officers, and from the Officers in general at all the Posts I had occaſion to visit –

Senſible

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Senſible how difficult it is to ſay just enough on any ſubject I am afraid I have protracted this report to too great a length; and yet I ſuppreſsed so many remarks & converſations which were interesting at the time, that I am also afraid I have not been ſufficiently explicit. I have confined myſelf to bare recital, without any commentary of my own, to avoid the imputation of obtruding opinion where it might be conſidered my duty to relate facts existing abstractedly. But I will hope your forgiveneſs for ſaying that the aſsiduity of the British Commanders to restrain the Indian from hostilities ſtill wanted the viſit which, by your command I have made them, to ſatisfy the Indians that they had nothing to fear from the enmity of the States. They are now convinced from my riſquing ſuch a journey through their Country, and from the communications I have made to them individually on my way, not only of our friendly ſentiments toward them, but alſo of our confidence in theirs, which must, in ſome degree, beget a ſimilar confidence in them. And though I bring no public anſwer from the Chiefs, owing to the motives of duty or policy whic oppoſed it, I think myſelf ſufficiently authorized, from the many opportunities I had of learning their ſentiments, both from themſelves and the Whites who are in their Confidence; to aſsert that I know them to be heartily tired of the War and ſincerely disposed to Peace.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect

Sir

Your very humble and
most obedient Servant
Ephraim Douglaſs

Honble
Major General Lincoln
Secretary at War

Report by Mr. Douglass –
Messenger to the Indian Tribes dated
Princeton August 18. 1783

COPY OF REPORT OF EPHRAIM DOUGLASS TO SECY. AT WAR, 1783.

Princeton, 18th August, 1783.

Sir,

In obedience to the instructions you honored me with on the 5th of May last, I have used every endeavour in my power to execute in the fullest manner your orders, and give effect to your wishes; and though I have not had all the success I at first hoped, I flatter myself the following report will not only shew that I have attempted all in my power, but that essential good consequences may justly be hoped from my endeavours to obey your Commands.

On the 7th of June, I left Fort Pitt and travelling about two hundred miles by the old trading path, arrived on the 16th at the Delaware & Huron settlements on the Sandusky River, but before I reached the Villages I fell in with two young Delawers who had known me formerly, appeared rejoiced to see me, and conducted me to the principal Town of that Tribe. Captain Pipe who is the principal man of the Nation, received me with every demonstration of joy, welcomed me in the most friendly manner and treated me with greater Civility than is usual with them in time of profound Peace. In a speech of gratulation which he delivered on my arrival, he felicitated me and my Companions on our safety through a long & dangerous wilderness, and himself, on seeing his brethren of the United States once more enter his door in a peacable and friendly manner; but told me, as his Nation was not the principal one, nor had voluntarily engaged in the War, it would be proper for me first to communicate my business to the Hurons and Shauneze, and afterwards to the Delawares. That he had announced my arrival to the Hurons, and expected such of them as were at home would very shortly be over to see and welcom me. This soon happened as he had expected, but as none of their Chiefs were present, I declined speaking publickly to them, knowing that I could receive no authentic answer, and unwilling to expend unnecessarily the Wampum I had prepared for this occasion. I informed them for their satisfaction of the peace with England, and told them that the United States were disposed to be in friendship with the Indians also—desired them to send for their head men, particularly for the Half King who was gone to Detroit; to send also to the Shauneze and such of the Six Nations and Delawares as live on the Miami River, and that when these were all present, I would deliver to them publickly the particulars of the business I was charged with.

They all readily agreed to this proposal, and returned to their homes apparently very well satisfied: but the Hurons nevertheless failed sending to Detroit, partly thro' the want of authority in the old men present, and partly through the assurances of the Wife of the half King who was confident her Husband would be home in two Days, and therefore a journey which would require six or seven was altogether unnecessary.

The Pipe sent away for those on the Miami agreeable to his promise, and learning that Mr. Elliot, one of the agents in the Indian Department resided with the Shawneze, and must necessarily be acquainted with my coming, I wrote to him by the Pipe's Express, requesting him to concur with our Messenger in communicating to the Shawneze, that I was charged with a Message from the United States and desired them to attend as soon as possible—I also gave him an invitation to be present if he could make it convenient. Though I promised to myself very little from this Letter, I knew it could do no possible harm—and though I did not hope he would give himself any trouble to serve me, I thought the possibility that the compliment of it might prevent his opposition worth the trouble of writing it.

On the evening of the 18th, a runner arrived from the Miami with intelligence that Mr. Elliot had received dispatches from Detroit announcing the arrival of Sir John Johnson at that place—that in Consequence, the Chiefs and Warriors were desired to repair thither in a few Days, where a Council would be held with them. They were also directed to take with them the War or Tomahawk Belts, which had been delivered to them by the King to strike the Americans with. This was an intimation which had been long expected but never till now received; for though they had been repeatedly forbid to continue at War against the Americans the Tomahawk had still remained in their hands, which is a deviation from the ancient Customs of the Indians, and therefore the more astonishing to them.

I perceived that this invitation would necessarily draw off a number of the principal men, but determined to wait the return of our Messenger before I would take any further resolution, and in this suspence I continued till the evening of the 22d, when he returned with speeches from the Chiefs in that Quarter, imparting that they had made every preparation for coming agreeable to our requests to hear what I had to say to them, but just when they were ready to mount their Horses, they were stopped by the arrival of ten men who preceded a body of sixty other Southern Indians coming upon business from the Nations North and East of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. That in consequence of their coming they would be obliged to delay their visit to us for a few Days, but would not fail to come so soon as they heard the business of these people, could not however determine how soon.

The intervention of this unexpected delay, the uncertainty where it would end—the anxiety of the Sandusky Indians to obey the summons from Detroit, the absence of the Half King who was now no longer expected till after the Treaty there, and the certainty of receiving no answer when he was not in Council, induces me to yield to the importunity of the Pipe, and attend to his representations. He pressed me to accompany him to Detroit, assuring me that it would be useless to wait the coming of the Indians from the Miami, that they would spend their time in useless Counseling there till the Treaty at Detroit would come on, and that if I even could assemble them I could obtain nothing from the Interview—That if the Half King was present he would not undertake to give me an answer without consulting the Chiefs of the Huron Tribe at Detroit, and that these would determine another without first asking the advice of their Father the Commandant.

Finding that I had little to hope from continuing at Sandusky, and likely to effect as little by visiting the Miami if my Horses had even been able to have performed the Journey I determined to proceed to Detroit by the nearest route, though I began to be doubtful I should not succeed in my wishes there; determined however to leave nothing unattempted which promised even a probability of success.—I concurred with the Pipe in a message to the Miami Indians, desiring that rather than wait to hear the dispatches of these Southern Indians, they should advise them to continue their Journey to Detroit where they would certainly meet the Six Nations, to whom their business must be ultimately delivered, as the Deputation in consequence of which they had performed so long and difficult a journey, had originally proceeded from them—We desired them to send us an answer in three days what Resolution they would take and when we should meet them where the roads unite, that we might go together to Detroit.

We waited till the 29th in hopes of receiving an answer but none came, 'tho we had several Messages, some intimating that they could not come over to us, and desiring the Hurons & Delawares to attend at the Shawnese Towns—other accounts said the Chiefs of that Nation were gone to Detroit.

We now made every preparation for our departure, but fearing I might not again have so good an opportunity, I made use of this to give the Pipe every information respecting my business, and to explain to him the Preliminary Articles of peace, which I found had not only never been communicated to them by authority, but that the accidental information they had occasionally received had been in some respects contradicted by the Officers of the Crown; particularly that part which related to the evacuation of the posts on the Lakes.

I left Sandusky on the 30th accompanied by the Pipe and two other Indians in addition to my former Companions, and travelled onwards to Detroit till the afternoon of the 1st of July when we were met by Mr Elliot and three other persons from that place, whom the Commandant had dispatched for the purpose of conducting us thither.

The Indians who had left the Towns after my arrival, had given the intelligence at Detroit, and the Letter I had written to Mr Elliot had also been carried there by some of those from the Miami. In consequence of this Col. Depeyster had sent Mr Elliot to me with a Letter No. 1.*

I was now nearly half way from Sandusky to Detroit, and could neither take or alter a resolution in consequence of this Letter, but continued my journey with my new Companions—till the 4th when I arrived at Detroit, where I was received with much politeness and treated with great Civility by the Commandant, to whom I delivered your Letter, shewed your instructions and pressed for an opportunity of communicating them to the Indians as soon as might be. He professed the strongest desire of bringing about a reconciliation between the United States and the several Indian Nations,—declared that he would willingly promote it all in his power; but that until he was authorized by his Superiors in Command, he could not consent that any thing should be said to the Indians relative to the boundary of the United States; for though he knew from the King's Proclamation that the war with America was at an end, he had had no official information to justify his supposing the States extended to this place, and therefore could not consent to the Indians being told so; especially as he had uniformly declared to them, that he did not know these Posts were to be evacuated by the English. He had no objection, he said, to my communicating the friendly offers of the United States,—and would chearfully make known to them the substance of your Letter to him.

In the morning of the 5th, I received an intimation from Colonel Depeyster, through Captain McKee, that it was his wish I would go on to Niagara, so soon as I had recovered from the fatigue of my journey. In consequence of this I waited on him in the afternoon, and pressed with greater warmth than yesterday, the necessity of my speaking to the Indians and receiving an answer from them. I pressed him to suffer me to proceed on my business without his interference, and offered him my word that I would say nothing to them respecting the limits of the States, but confine myself to the offer of Peace, or choice of War, and the Invitation to Treaty. He would not retract his resolution without further orders from the Commander in Chief, and I was obliged to submit however unwillingly: But must do him the justice to acknowledge that he made every offer of civility and service, except that which he considered inconsistent with his Duty.

On the 6th I attended the Council which Colonel Depeyster held with the Indians, to which he had yesterday invited me. After delivering his business of calling them together, he published to them your Letter and pressed them to continue in the strictest amity with the Subjects of the United States,—represented to them the folly of continuing hostilities, and assured them that he could by no means give them any future assistance against the people of Ameria.

At this meeting were the Chiefs of Eleven Indian Nations, comprehending all the Tribes as far South as the Wabash. They were Chipewas, Otawas, Wyandots or Hurons, Shawneze, Delawares,

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* The papers referred to by Nos. have not been found.

Kickaboos, Oweochtancos, Miamis, Pootawotamies and Picnkishas with a part of the Senecas; most of whom gave evident marks of their Satisfaction at seeing a subject of the United States in that Country. They carried their civilities so far that my lodging was all day surrounded with crowds of them when at home, and the Streets lined with them to attend my going abroad; that they might have an opportunity of seeing and saluting me, which they did not fail to do in their best manner, with every demonstration of joy.

On the morning of the 7th I took my leave of Colonel De Peyster, after having received more civilities from him than the limits of this report will suffer me to enumerate; but not 'till I had the honor of writing to you by my Guide, whom I directed to return to Fort Pitt so soon as the Pipe should be ready to return to Sanduskey on whom I depended for his safe conduct thither, and to provide one to accompany him to Fort Pitt.

I arrived at Niagara on the 11th, was introduced to General Maclean who was prepared for my coming, delivered him Colol. De Peyster's Letter and was received with every mark of attention but he declined entering upon any business this Day.

In the morning I waited again on the General at his request. He asked for my Instructions which I produced, and afterwards, at his request, the Resolve of Congress alluded to. He expressed an earnest desire that the Indians should live in peace with the United States, declared that he had most effectually put a stop to all hostilities, and had already given you this Information,—that he would be answerable for their future good conduct provided they were not molested by us—regretted that he had not at present such information from below as would justify his concurring with me, or even permiting me to call the Indians together—that he had every reason to expect Sir John Johnson very soon, who he supposed would bring such instructions as would remove every difficulty,—that however he considered the purport of my message anticipated by the pains which had been taken to dispose the Indians to peace, which appeared to be the grand object of Congress.

In case Sir John did not arrive in two or three days as he expected he proposed to me the alternative of continuing downward to the Commander in Chief or of furnishing him with Copies of my Instructions and the Resolve of Congress which he would transmit to him for his orders thereon. He lamented that mischevious people among us took too much pains to alarm the minds of the Indians in this quarter, by inventing and propapating speeches, which the Indians were taught to believe came from persons in power among the Americans. In proof of this he produced the proceedings of a Council lately held with the Indians, which contains an alarming speech said to have been sent to them by General Schuyler. At my request he gave me a Copy of it with his own remarks at the bottom No 2.

In consequence of this speech and his assurances to the Indians, the six nations had sent to that part of the Oneida Tribe which had remained in the interest of the States, forbidding them to bring any future messages, but such as were written or otherwise visible in Belts or Strings. That they would be glad to hear in this manner whatever the United States had to say to them.

Colonel Butler the Superintendant at the post was sent for and corroborated every thing that the General said of the peacable disposition of the Indians, unless they were compelled to a contrary conduct by the Americans seizing on their Lands which both asserted the Six Nations would never quietly submit to. They recommended the measure of Congress sending some person to give them assurances respecting their Lands, if it was their intention to leave them to the natives, and the General offered to promote it with all his Interest, to be answerable for the safety of the Commissioners and also engage for the Indians good behaviour and willingness to meet the Commissioners of Congress at any place after receiving such assurance.

Captain Brant came from the Mohawk Village to see me and was introduced by the General, in whose presence we had a conversation on the subject of the Indian's Lands—Brant insisted that they would make a point of having them secured before they would enter into any farther or other Treaty. In the evening I had a private conference with him at his own request in which I explained to him in the most circumstantial manner every thing relating to my business with the Indians and had a good deal of friendly argument with him on the subject, too long to insert here.

On the evening of the 13th, I received a note from the General requesting a Copy of my Instructions &c., to send to the Commander in Chief to facilitate business, No. 3. I sent him word that he should be obeyed, and early in the morning began to execute my promise, but before I had finished copying them, I received a verbal message that he wished to see me at his quarters. I finished the Copies and waited on him with them.

He informed me that he had sent for me to show me the Copy of a Letter he was writiug to Colonel De Peyster. It contained instructions to that Gentleman in consequence of my representations of the murders committed by the Western Indians in the course of the last spring, and since by his account, they had been positively forbid to be guilty of any such outrage. He pressed Colonel Depeyster very earnestly to examine minutely into this affair,—to forbid the Indians in the most positive manner to be guilty of such future misconduct,—to order them to deliver up immediately such prisoners as they had captured through the spring into the hands of himself or his officers,—and further to tell them that if they did not desist from these practices the British Troops would join the Americans to punish them.

He afterward read me the Copy of a Letter which he had written you in answer to yours by Mr. Bull. Not doubting that this Letter is in your possession, I only mention it as it was the introduction to an address to me containing the same sentiments, which ended in an intimation that I might return home as soon as I thought proper, that whenever I pleased he would furnish me with a Boat & men to carry me to Oswego, would afford me every other assistance in his power and write to Major Ross the Commandant at that place to give me every assistance I should require.

I soon concluded that this invitation to leave the place arose from the importunacy of the Indians to hear publickly the message which my coming had promised them, and his refusing permission to Captain Brant to take me on a visit to the Mohawk Castle convinced me of the justice of this conclusion,

I employed such arguments as I expected would be most likely to prevail on him to permit me to speak to the Chiefs publickly before my departure, and answered (as I thought) all his objections, one of which was to that part of my instructions which said the King had been compelled to make peace, which he said would convey to the Indians the Idea of his being conquered, and might induce them to an insolence of behaviour that would become disagreeable to him and perhaps injurious to the service. To remove every exception on this head I offered to suppress the word compelled but he avoided giving me any direct answer to this proposal,—insisted much on the pacific disposition of the Indians, again pledged himself for their behaviour; assured me of their desire to cultivate the friendship of the Americans, and declared that he was authorized by the Chiefs to tell me so. He then informed me that previous to my arrival the Chiefs had applied to him to write to his Excellency General Washington on their behalf with offers of friendship, and regretted that he had not such orders as would justify him in doing it, especially before the Superintendant General had made the proper communications to the Indians on the part of the Crown.

Frustrated in every attempt to obtain a public audience of the Indians and receive their answer to your message. I wrote to General Maclean on the 16th for his refusal in writing (No. 4) which he immediately gave me (No. 5) and on the same day I set off for Oswego, after having experienced from General Maclean every species of polite attention, except that which duty as well as inclination bid me most wish for and every civility from his Officers, and from the Officers in general at all the Posts I had occasion to visit.

Sensible how difficult it is to say just enough on any subject, I am afraid I have protracted this report to too great a length and yet I suppressed so many remarks and conversations which were interesting at the time, that I am also afraid I have not been sufficiently explicit. I have confined myself to bare recital, without any commentary of my own, to avoid the imputation of obtruding opinion where it might be considered my duty to relate facts existing abstractedly. But I will hope your forgiveness for saying that the assiduity of the British Commanders to restrain the Indians from hostilities still wanted the visit which by your command I have made them, to satisfy the Indians that they had nothing to fear from the enmity of the States. They are now convinced from my risquing such a journey through their Country and from the communications I have made to them individually on my way, not only of our friendly Sentiments toward them, but also of our confidence in theirs, which must in some degree beget a similar confidence in them. And though I bring no public answer from the Chiefs, owing to the motives of duty or policy which opposed it. I think myself sufficiently authorized from the many opportunities I had of learning their Sentiments, both from themselves and the Whites who are in their confidence, to assert that I know them to be heartily tired of the war and sincerely disposed to Peace.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect Sir,
Your very humble and most obedient servant,
EPHRAIM DOUGLASS.

The Honble. Major General Lincoln, Secretary at War.

Resolution of Congress, 1783.

By The United States in Congress Assembled,
August 21st, 1783.

Whereas it is stipulated in the 7th article of the preliminaries agreed upon the 30th Day of November, 1782, between the Plenipotentiaries of his Britanic Majesty & of the United States, "that the King of Great Britain shall order and cause all Archives, records, Deeds and papers belonging to any of the said States or their Citizens which in the course of the War may have fallen into the hands of his Officers to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper States and persons to whom they belong."

Resolved, That the Commander in Chief be directed to make application to his Britanic Majesty's Generals commanding at New York and Quebec for the immediate delivery to persons authorised to receive them, of all Archives, records, Deeds and papers belonging to any of the United States or to any of their Citizens which may have fallen into the hands of any of his Britannic Majesty's Officers during the course of the War.

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Indorsed,

1783 Pensylvania, August 21st. Resolution of Congress respecting delivery of Archives, Deeds, Papers &ca, by the British Generals.

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* See Col. Rec., Vol. XIII., p. 681.

Sir

In consequence of the instructions your honour gave me on the 8th of May last, I have used every precaution in my power to execute in the fullest manner your orders and give satisfaction to your excellency; and though I have not had all the success I at first hoped, I flatter myself the following report will not only shew that I have attempted all in my power, but that essential good consequences may justly be hoped from my endeavours to obey your commands.

On the 7th of June I left Fort Pitt and travelling about two hundred miles by the old trading path, arrived on the 16th at the Delaware and Huron settlements on the Sandusky river; but before I reached the Villages I fell in with two young Delawares who had known me formerly, appeared rejoiced to see me, and conducted me to the principal Town of that Tribe. Captain Pipe who is the principal Man of that Nation, received me with every demonstration of joy, welcomed me in the most friendly manner me with greater civility than is uſual with them in their preſent Times. [illegible] a ſpeech of gratulation which he delivered on my arrival, he felicitated me & my companions on our ſafety through ſo long [illegible] dangerous a Journey, and himſelf in ſeeing an inhabitant of the United States once more enter his Door in a peaceable and friendly manner, but told me, as his Nation was not the principal one nor had Voluntarily engaged in the War, it would be proper for me firſt to communicate my Buſineſs to the Hurons and Shawneſe, and afterwards to the Delawares. That he had announced my arrival to the Hurons, and expected ſuch of them as were at home would very ſhortly be over to ſee and welcome me. This ſoon happened as he had expected, but as none of their chiefs were preſent, I declined ſpeaking publicly to them, knowing that I could receive no authentic anſwer, and unwilling to expend unneceſſarily the Wampum I had prepared for this occaſion. I informed them for their ſatiſfaction of the Peace with England, and told them that the United States were diſpoſed to be in friendſhip with the Indians alſo — deſired them to ſend for their Head-men, particularly for the Half-King who was gone to Detroit, — to ſend alſo to the Shawneſe, and ſuch of the [illegible] and Delawares [illegible]

that when [illegible] I would [illegible]

the satisfaction of the [illegible] charged with.

[illegible] agreed to her proposal and returned

to their homes apparently [illegible] satisfied, yet the Miamis

nevertheless persisted [illegible] partly thro' the want of

authority in the old men [illegible], and partly through the assuran-

ces of the [illegible] of the [illegible] who was confident that her Husband

would be home in two days, and therefore a journey which

would require four or five was altogether unnecessary.

The [illegible] sent away for those on the Miami agreed

to her promise, and learning that Mr Elliott, one of the Agents

in the Indian Department, resided with the Shawnese, and

must necessarily be acquainted with my errand, I wrote to him

by the [illegible] express, requesting him to concur with me in [illegible]

[illegible] in communicating to the Shawnese that I was charged with

a message from the United States and desired them to attend

as soon as possible. I also gave him an invitation to be present

if he could make it convenient. Though I promised myself

any

very little from this letter, I knew it could do no poſsible har and though I did not hope he would give himſelf any trouble to ſerve me, I thought the poſsibility that the complement of it mig prevent his oppoſition, worth the trouble of writing it.

On the evening of the 15th a Runner arrived from the Miami with intelligence that Mr Elliott had received deſpatches from Detroit announcing the arrival of Sir John Johnſon at that place, — that in conſequence, the Chiefs and Warriors were deſired to repair thither in a few days, where a Council wou be held with them. They were alſo directed to take with the the War or Tomahawk Belts, which had been Delivered to them by the King to ſtrike the Americans with. This was an intimation which had been long expected but never till now received; for though they had been repeatedly forbid to continu at War againſt the Americans the Tomahawk had ſtill remained in their hands, which is a deviation from the ancient cuſtoms of the Indians, and therefore the more aſtoniſhing to them

I perceived that this invitation would neceſsarily draw off a number of the principal Men, but determined to wait the return of our meſsenger before I would take any farther reſolution; and in this ſuſpence I continued till the evening of the 22 when he returned with ſpeeches from the Chiefs in that Quarter, importing that they had made every preparation for coming agreeable to our requeſt to hear what I had to ſay to them, but juſt when they were ready to mount their horſes, they were ſtopped by the arrival of ten Men who preceded a body of ſixty other Southern Indians coming upon buſineſs from the Nations Eaſt and North of the Ohio and Miſsiſsippi Rivers. That in conſequence of their coming they would be obliged to delay their viſit to us for a few days, but would not fail to come ſo ſoon as they had heard the buſineſs of theſe people – could not however determine how ſoon.

The intervention of this unexpected delay, – the uncertainty when it would end, – the anxiety of the Sanduſky Indians to obey the ſummons from Detroit, the abſence of the Half-King who was now no longer expected till after the Treaty time, and the certainty of receiving no anſwer when he was ſome reſpects contradicted by the Officers of the Crown, particularly that part which relates to the evacuation of the Poſts the Lakes.

I left Sanduſky on the 30th. accompanied by the Pipe and two other Indians in addition to my former companions, and travelled onward to Detroit till the afternoon of the 1st of July when we were met by Mr. Elliot and three other perſons from that place, whom the Commandant had diſpatched for the purpoſ of conducting us thither. The Indians who had left the towns after my arrival, had given the Intelligence at Detroit, an [illegible] Letter I had written to Mr. Elliot had alſo been carried then by ſome of thoſe from the Miami. In conſequence of this Colone DePeyſter had ſent Mr. Elliot to me with a letter No. 1 —

I was now nearly half way from Sanduſky to Detroit, & could neither take or alter a reſolution in conſequence of this Letter; but continued my journey with my new compan till the 4th. when I arrived at Detroit, where I was received with m politeneſs and treated with great civility by the Commandant, to whom I delivered your letter, ſhewed your inſtructions and

preſsed

met in Council, induced me to yield to the importunity of the Pipe, and attend to his repreſentations. He preſsed me to accompany him to Detroit, aſsuring me that it would b[illegible]ſeleſs to wait the coming of the Indians from the Miami, that they wou ſpend their time in uſeleſs counſelling there till the Treaty at De would come on, and that if I even could aſsemble them I could obtain nothing from the interview — That if the Half King was preſent he would not undertake to give me an anſwer without conſulting the Chiefs of the Huron Tribe at Detroit, and that theſe would determine on nothing without firſt aſking the advice of their Father the Commandant.

Finding that I had little to hope from continuing at Sanduſky, and likely to effect as little by viſiting the Miami if my horſes had even been able to have performed the journey I determined to proceed to Detroit by the neareſt route, though I began to be doubtful I ſhould not ſucceed to my wiſhes there; — determined however to leave nothing unattempted which promiſed even a probability of ſucceſs. — I concurred with the Pipe in a meſsage to the Miami Indians, deſiring that rather than wait to hear the diſpatches of theſe Southern Indians, they ſhould adviſe them to continue their journey to Detroit where they would certainly meet the Six-Nations, to whom their buſineſs muſt be ultimately delivered, as the deputation in conſequence of which they had performed ſo long and difficult a journey, had originally proceeded from them — We deſired them to ſend us an anſwer in three days what reſolution they would take — and when we ſhould meet them where the roads unite, that we might go together to Detroit.

We waited till the 29th in hopes of receiving an anſwer but none came, tho' we had ſeveral meſſages, ſome intimating that they could not come over to us, and deſiring the Hurons and Delawares to attend at the Shawneze towns — Other accounts ſaid the Chiefs of that nation were gone to Detroit

We now made every preparation for our departure, but fearing I might not again have ſo good an opportunity, I made uſe of this to give the Pipe every information reſpecting my buſineſs, and to explain to him the Preliminary articles of Peace, which I found had not only never been communicated to them by authority, but that the accidental information they had occaſionally received had been in

ſome

preſsed for an opportunity of communicating them to the Indians as ſoon as might be. He profeſsed the ſtrongeſt deſire of bringing about a reconciliation between the United States and the ſeveral Indian Nations, — declared that he would willingly promote it all in his power; but that until he was authorized by his ſuperiors in command, he could not conſent that any thing ſhould be ſaid to the Indians relative to the boundary of the United States; for though he knew from the King's Proclamation that the war with America was at an end, he had had no Official information to juſtify his ſuppoſing the States extended to this Place, and therefore could not conſent to the Indians' being told ſo; eſpecially as he had uniformly declared to them, that he did not know theſe Poſts were to be evacuated by the Engliſh. He had no objections, he ſaid, to my communicating the friendly offers of the United States. — and would chearfully make known to them the ſubſtance of your letter to him.

In the morning of the 5th I received an intimation from Colonel DePeyster, through Captain McKee, that it was his wiſh I would go on to Niagara ſo ſoon as I had recovered from the fatigue of my journey. In conſequence of this I waited on him in the afternoon, and preſsed with greater warmth than yeſterday, the neceſsity of my ſpeaking to the Indians and receiving an anſwer from them. I preſsed him to ſuffer me to proceed on my buſineſs without his interference, and offered him my word that ~~that~~ I would ſay nothing to them reſpecting the limits of the States, but confine myſelf to the offer of Peace, or choice of War, and the invitation to treaty. — He would not retract his reſolution without further orders from the Comander in Chief; and I was obliged to ſubmit however unwillingly: But muſt do him the juſtice to acknowledge that he made every offer of civility and ſervice, except that which he conſidered inconſiſtent with his duty.

On the 6th I attended the Council which Colonel DePeyster held with the Indians, to which he had yeſterday invited me. After delivering the buſineſs of his calling them together, he publiſhed to them your letter and preſsed them to continue in the ſtricteſt amity with the ſubjects of the United States, - repreſented to them the folly of continuing hoſtilities, and aſsured them that he could by no means give them any future aſsiſtance againſt the People of America

At this meeting were the Chiefs of eleven Indian Nations, comprehending all the Tribes as far South as the Wabaſh. They were Chipawas, Otawas, Wyandots or Hurons, Shauneze, Delaweres, Kikaboos, Qweochtanoos, Miamis Pootawotamies and Peenkiſhas with a part of the Senecaes; moſt of whom gave evident marks of their ſatiſfaction at ſeeing a ſubject of the United States in that country. They carried their civilities ſo far that my lodging was all day ſurrounded with crowds of them when at home, and the ſtreets lined with them to attend my going abroad; that they might have an opportunity of ſeeing and ſaluting me, which they did not fail to do in their beſt manner, with every demonſtration of joy.

On the morning of the 7th I took my leave of

Colonel DePeyſter, after having received more civilities fro
him, than the limits of this report will ſuffer me to enumerate
but not 'til I had the honor of writing to you by my
Guide, whom I directed to return to Fort Pitt ſo ſoon as t
Pipe ſhould be ready to return to Sanduſky, on whom I
depended for his ſafe conduct thither, and to provide one
to accompany him to Fort Pitt.

I arrived at Niagara on the 18th was introduce
to General Maclean who was prepared for my coming,
delivered him Colonel DePeyster's letter, and was receive
with every mark of attention; but He declined entering
upon any buſineſs this day —

In the morning I waited again on the
General at his requeſt. He aſked for my inſtructio
which I produced, and afterward, at his requeſt, the
Reſolve of Congreſs ~~alluded to~~. He expreſſed an
earneſt deſire that the Indians ſhould live in Peace
with the United States, declared that he had moſt
effectually put a ſtop to all hoſtilities, and had
already given you this information; — that he wou

be anſwerable for their future good conduct provided they were not moleſted by us, — regretted that he had not at preſent ſuch information from below as would juſtify his concurring with me, or even permitting me to call the Indians together — that he had every reaſon to expect Sir John Johnſon very ſoon, who he ſuppoſed would bring ſuch inſtructions as would remove every difficulty — that however he conſidered the purport of my meſsage anticipated by the pains which had been taken to diſpoſe the Indians to Peace, which appeared to be the grand object of Congreſs

In caſe Sir John did not arrive in two or three days as he expected, he propoſed to me the alternative of continuing downward to the Commander in Chief, or of furniſhing him with copies of my inſtructions and the Reſolve of Congreſs which he would tranſmit to him for his orders thereon. He lamented that miſchievous people among us took too much pains to allarm the minds of the Indians in this quarter, by inventing and propagating Speeches, which the Indians were taught to believe came from Perſons in power among the Americans. In proof of this he produced the proceedings of a Council lately held with the Indians which contains an allarming Speech ſaid to have been ſent to them by General Schuyler. At my requeſt he gave me a copy of it with his own remarks at the bottom No. 2. —

In conſequence of this Speech and his aſsurances to the Indians, the Six Nations had ſent to that part of the Oneida Tribe which had remained in the intereſt of the States, forbidding them to bring any future meſsages but ſuch as were written, or otherwiſe viſible in Belts or Strings. That they would be glad to hear in this manner whatever the United States had to ſay to them.

Colonel Butler the Superintendant at the Poſt was ſent for and corroborated every thing that the General ſaid of the peacable diſpoſition of the Indians unleſs they were compelled to a contrary conduct by the Americans ſeizing on their lands, which both aſſerted the Six Nations would never quietly ſubmit to. They recommended the meaſure of Congreſs' ſending ſome Perſon to give them aſsurances reſpecting their Lands, if it was their intention to leave them to the Natives, and the General offered to promote it with all his intereſt, to be anſwerable for the ſafety of the

Commiſsioner, and alſo engage for the Indians good behaviour and willingneſs to meet the Commiſsioners of Congreſs at any place after receiving ſuch aſsurance.

Captain Brant came from the Mohawk Village to ſee me and was introduced by the General, in whoſe preſence we had a converſation on the ſubject of the Indian's Lands.. Brant inſiſted that they would make a point of having them ſecured before they would enter into any farther or other treaty. In the evening I had a private conference with him at his own requeſt in which I explained to him in the moſt circumſtantial manner every thing relating to my buſineſs with the Indians and had a good deal of friendly argument with him on the ſubject, too long to inſert here.

On the evening of the 13 I received a Note from the General requeſting a copy of my inſtructions &c. to ſend to the Commander in Chief to facilitate buſineſs No. 3. I ſent him word that he ſhould be obeyed, and early in the morning began to execute my promiſe, but before I had finiſhed copying them, I received a verbal meſsage that he wiſhed to ſee me at his Quarters. I finiſhed the copies and waited on him with them.

He informed me that he had ſent for him to ſhew
the copy of a letter he was writing to Colonel DePeyſter –
It contained inſtructions to that Gentleman in conſequence of
my repreſentation of the murders committed by the Weſtern
Indians in the courſe of the laſt Spring; and ſince, by his
account, they had been poſitively forbid to be guilty of any
ſuch outrage. He preſſed Colonel DePeyſter very earneſtly to exa
minutely into this affair. – to forbid the Indians in the moſt poſitiv
manner to be guilty of ſuch future miſconduct, – to order th
to deliver up immediately ſuch priſoners as they had captur
through the Spring, into the hands of himſelf or his officers,
and farther to tell them that if they did not deſiſt from
theſe practices ~~that~~ the Britiſh Troops would join the Ame
cans to puniſh them.

He afterward read me the copy of a letter which
he had written you in anſwer to yours by Mr Bull. Not
doubting that this letter is in your poſſeſſion, I only mentio
it as it was the introduction to an addreſs to me contain
the ſame ſentiments, which ended in an intimation that
I might return home as ſoon as I thought proper, – that
whenever I pleaſed he would furniſh me with a boat and

men to carry me to Oſwego; would afford me every other aſsiſtance in his power, and write to Major Roſs the Commandant at that place to give me every aſsiſtance I ſhould require—

I ſoon concluded that this invation to leave the place aroſe from the importunacy of the Indians to hear publicly the meſsage which my coming had promiſed them, and his refuſing permiſsion to Captain Brant to take me on a viſit to the Mohawk Caſtle convinced me of the juſtice of this concluſion.

I employed ſuch arguments as I expected would be moſt likely to prevail on him to permit me to ſpeak to the Chiefs publicly before my departure, and anſwered (as I thought) all his objections, one of which was to that part of my inſtructions which ſaid the King had been "compelled to make Peace," which he ſaid would convey to the Indians the idea of his being Conquered, and might induce them to an inſolence of behaviour that would become diſagreeable to him and perhaps injurious to the Service. To remove every exception on this head I offered to ſuppreſs the word "compelled", but he avoided giving me any direct anſwer to this propoſal.— inſiſted much on the pacific diſpoſition of the Indians, again pledged himſelf for their behaviour, aſsured me of their deſire to cultivate the friendſhip of the Americans, and declared that he was authorized by the Chiefs to to tell me ſo. He then informed me that previous to my arrival the Chiefs had applied to him to write to his Excellency General Waſhington on their behalf, with offers of friendſhip, and rejected that he had not ſuch orders as would juſtify him in doing it, eſpecially before the Superintendant General had made the proper communications to the Indians on the part of the Crown.

Fruſtrated in every attempt to obtain a public audience of the Indians, and receive their anſwer to your meſsage I wrote to General Maclean on the 16th for his refuſal in writing (N°. 4). which he immediately gave me (N°. 5.) and on the ſame day I ſet off for Oſwego, after having experienced from General Maclean every ſpecies of polite attention, except that which duty as well as inclination bid me moſt wiſh for; and every civility from his Officers, and from the Officers in general at all the Poſts I had occaſion to viſit.

Senſible how difficult it is to ſay juſt enough on any ſubject I am affraid I have protracted this report to too great a length; and yet I have ſuppreſsed ſo many remarks & converſations which were intereſting at the time, that I am alſo afraid I have not been ſufficiently explicit. I have confined myſelf to bare recital, without any commentary of my own, to avoid the imputation of obtruding opinion where it might be conſidered my duty to relate facts exiſting abſtractedly. But I will hope your forgiveneſs for ſaying that the aſſiduity of the Britiſh Commanders to reſtrain the Indians from hoſtilities ſtill wanted the viſit which, by your command I have made them, to ſatiſfie the Indians that they had nothing to fear from the enmity of the States. They are now convinced from my riſquing ſuch a journey through their Country, and from the communications I have made to them individually on my way, not only of our friendly ſentiments toward them, but alſo of our confidence in them, which muſt, in ſome degree, beget a ſimilar confidence in them. And though I bring no public anſwer from the Chiefs, owing to the motives of duty or policy which oppoſed it, I think myſelf ſufficiently authoriſed, from the many opportunities I had of learning

their sentiments, both from themselves and the Whites wh
are in their confidence, to assert that I know them to
heartily tired of War and sincerely disposed to Peace.—

I have the honor to be, with highest respect,

Sir,

your very humble and
obedient Servant

Ephraim Douglass

Honorable

Major General Lincoln

Secretary at War

Report by Mr.
Douglass.
Messenger to the
Indian Tribes.
received August
15th 1783 —
laid before Congress
August 19th.
Read Aug 29. 1783
Referred to
Mr Duane
Mr Peters
Mr Carroll
Mr Hawkins
Mr Lee

Detroit,
23 August, 1783

Deserento, Capt. J., to [D. Claus]

Letter in Mohawk. Translated in XXIV, 14

III, 255-56

Deyoghtaghrontyon | Aguts the 23 1783
Gorah |

Kahtti | Aontyesea | Skeanen | thaaghsonnhege |
Entsayatoreane | Saghyatonghsera | yaghhotthenon |
Dewageriwa | Negi oh ne | we sattogeaghse | ttioneat |
keatho | Shaacgwawe Ethone thotadi | Captn Maken
Wahenron | yaghteyawegh | Ayorighwaghsnoren
ne geatho | ayonttheannissa | keanonwe ongttegh | 20
tsyanoghsSge | Ethone haadi yongwatgeanisonon
Shaghsttaghretti | ne ne | Waguearon | Dyatattegea
Onea | haadi | yagonnontshineghte ttinonwe
yegeattisttayea | Ensaterighwatthontegea
ne Seghsttaghretti | ichea | kayyaneraghsera |
Wagiyadine | Agenonghtyonni | Neweghnidirate | 21
15th aguts Ethone | Dontohontadi | Wahearon |
Dyatattegea | Agawagh kannoron | ttinaaweat
nagenigonra | ichea | keathononwe | nigeattis
tayea | Nohnonwa | karhagon | yahontsttionni
karighwatogea yagh thaonterighwaghteadi |
ne kayyanneraghsera | yagh kaadi | ni i 18
thiyagaghteadi | Anyogh | kaadi | yoteghha
ttinakayere | Enyorheane | kaadi | Enyagwaghteadi |
yagweghre | thagonte | Onterighwaghteadi
nongwayanneraghsera |

Ethook | tsigairiwa |

Sesheh | haadi | Eghtsrori | nongwagora | Onwanonghtsitho-
hawenniyo | Enyowenyentstane | Tsineayoterighwaghtea-
hattye | yontattye | Esaghrongeahattye |

Onea | haadi | Kahtti | Agweryane | Waohtaghgo-
yaatgonnoghweraton | Nohhoni | nongwagora | ——
Onwanonghtsisshon | Ohagiteashege | nekawea
Sheanea | thaesenonahege | nohhoni | Tsiseninno-
tote | ——

Shegon | nii | agwegon | Skeanea igeghre | Shego-
hariweis | yiattsyagwawe | hadnonwe | Septom
Etho | John Deserontyon
Gorah | Shotsitsyowanne |
Ayoghtyag |

From Mohk. Capts.
Detroit 22d Aug

21

1785

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

44 Translation of a letter, in Mohawk, on Page
Vol. 3. 'Claus Papers'

Detroit. August 23. 1783.

Governor, my elder brother, May you be well when this letter reaches you. I have not much news to tell you except that we have arrived here.

Capt McKee spoke to us and said: "It is not likely that the matter would be speeded up if the meeting ~~to~~ were held here, unless held at 'Tsya noghs sge.'" So then and there we held a meeting. We said to 'Shagh stagh re tsi': "Brother, I take I take you now by the hand to where the Fire is, there you will hear my great Law guiding me, a member of the League". That was on the 15th August. They then spoke and said: "Brother, It is very disturbing to my mind because the Fire here is made in the forest. It is certain that the Law cannot make its way, so, therefore, I shall not go ahead." It seems a disgrace for what he did and said. But to-morrow we will speak. We are determined to have our Law proceeded with. This is the extent of the matter.

Be of that mind then. Tell our Governor, Sir John Johnson that good news and respect will go with our efforts. You will be hearing from us as we go.

Well, then, elder brother, from my heart goes my regards for you and our Governor, Sir John Johnson. May God be so merciful to us as to grant both of you good health as well as to your household. I am well

I think it will be a long time yet before we can get back. – about September sometime.

That is all.

John De se ron tyon.

To Governor, Col. Claus. (Sho tsi tyó-wa ne)

Translation of a letter in Mohawk on page 255,
Vol. 3, Claus Papers.

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Be of that mind then. Tell our Governor, Sir John Johnson that good news and respect will go with our efforts. You will be hearing from us as we go.

Well, then, elder brother, from my heart goes my regards for you and our Governor, Sir John Johnson. May God be so merciful to us as to grant both of you good health as well as to your household. I am well.

I think it will be a long time yet before we can get back.- about September sometime.

That is all.

John De se ron tyon

To Governor, Col. Claus. (Sho tsi tsyo wa ne)

Minutes of Transactions with Indians at Sandusky.

Tuesday the 26th August at 5 P. M. arriv'd at Sandusky

Wednesday the 27th in the morning dispatched Runners to expedite the gathering of the Indians. The rain prevents the unloading the Veſsel for this day.

Thursday the 28th Employed in unloading the Indian Presents from on board the Faith.

Friday the 29th Nothing Extra.

Saturday the 30th The Veſsel made Sail from hence.

Sunday the 31st Arrived an Indian from Fort Pitt, who had accompanied the Guide of the American Commiſsioners thither. He brought a Letter from thence directed to Lieut. Col. DePeyster. He reports that Boats frequently were paſsing down the Ohio, that the Officer Commanding at Fort Pitt had endeavoured to stop them, fired on some and taken others. He was informed that their Design was to encroach on the Indian Country, that notwithstanding the Vigilance of the Garrison there, upwards of Fifty Boats had paſsed. He says he was not able to judge the real cause, but that the People seemed to be in Commotion, and that a Loyalist who went on a Paſs from the Commandant of Detroit was seized and Confined, on pretence of his havg. acted with Indians against them at a place called Hannas Town.

Monday the 1st September. The Half King and about Three Hundred Indians arrived from the Upper Town.

Tuesday the 2d. Nothing Extra.

Wednesday the 3d. The Shawaneese arrived. The Deputies of the Six Nations request that the Faith, which was prevented from getting out of the River by contrary Winds, should be detained to carry them back to Fort Erie, as they wished to return as soon as possible on buſineſs of importance, accordingly She was ordered to wait for them.

Thursday the 4th The Chilicaſhiki Indians arrived.

Friday the 5th The several Nations being now all arrived, a Meeting was called amongst themselves, of the principal Warriours at which a large Belt sent two years ago by a Deputation from the Six Nations to the Southerd in order to unite the Northern & Southern Indians to prosecute the War (then carried on) with vigor, was now returned to the Six Nation Deputies present; by the Shawanese & Cherokees accompanied by several Speeches tending to aſsure the Six Nations of their Willingneſs to join in defence of their Country, which appeared to them at this time more neceſsary than ever, as the Americans were encroaching upon different parts of it, there=fore it required the serious consideration of their Elder Brethren the Six Nations, and their Fathers the English who had hitherto wisely advised what had been of general good to their Interest. That it would be grievous to them to hear they had changed the System that appeared more than ever eſsential for their preserva=tion and happineſs, as their situation was alarming if they could judge from the words & actions of the Americans, who made no Secret of their designs upon their Country, declaring pretentions to it by Conquest, and its being given up to them by the English who were thrown upon their backs. But we hope no Nation will tamely give it up: it is the Gift of the Great God who made all things to us, and we have already spilt the best of our Blood in defending it, therefore in sure and certain hopes of the Six Nations never loosing sight of what is incumbent upon us all to preserve: we are ready to listen to them

and

BRITISH MUSEUM

and to look towards them for assistance and advice.

At a Council held at Lower Sanduskey the 8th September 1783 by Alexander McKee Esqr. Deputy Agent for Indian affairs, with Hurons of Sanduskey, Delawares, Shawaneese, Mingoes, Creeks and Cherokees.

Present

Alexander McKee Esqr. Depy. Agent.
Captain Chesne, Ottawa & Chippewa Interpr.
Captain M. Elliott.
Lieut. Wm. Johnston.
Simon Girty, Interpreter.
Captain Joseph Brant with a Deputation
from the Six Nations.
Tsindatton with a Deputation of the
Lake Indians from Detroit.

Mr. McKee addresses them.

Children!

After Saluting the several Nations now assembled at this Council Fire. I am to acquaint you that in consequence of Instructions sent to me by Brigadier General Sir John Johnson Superintendent General of all Indian Affairs in Canada: I am come here to meet you having found it expedient to call you together at this place in order to avoid delay in apprising of the Councils lately held by him with the Six

Nations at Niagara, especially as your immediate conformity thereto appears absolutely necessary for your future welfare and happiness, as well as suitable to the good of your Father the King of Great Britain's Service. Therefore I desire you may listen with attention, that what is now delivered to you may make a proper impression upon your mind, and that you may be enabled thereby to reap the benefits of good advice.

" Delivers a Belt

Children! The kind concern expressed by your Fathers the English upon all occasions for the losses sustained by you during the War, and which at the late meeting held with you at Detroit, has been already covered over by your Father Lieut. Colonel DePeyster: makes it unnecessary for me to add more upon the Subject, than that I hope it has been sufficient to ease your minds and prepare your hearts to receive with Satisfaction the tidings of Peace, which is now communicated to us by Brigadr. General Sir John Johnson, whom His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint to preside over all your affairs. His Speech to the Six Nations is as follows, that " although the King your Father has " found it necessary for the happiness and ease of his " more Domestic Subjects, to conclude a long, bloody, " expensive and unnatural War, by a Peace which " seems to give you uneasiness on account of the boundary " Line agreed upon between His Majesty's Commissioners " and those of the United States yet you are not to " believe, or even think that by the Line which has been " described, it was meant to deprive you of an extent

"of Country of which the right of Soil belongs to, and is in
"yourselves as Sole Proprietors, as far as the boundary Line
"agreed upon and Established in the most Solemn and
"Public manner in the presence and with the Consent
"of the Governors and Commissioners deputed by the
"different Colonies for that purpose by your late worthy
"Friend Sir William Johnson in the year 1768 at Fort
"Stanwix. — Neither can I harbour an Idea that
"the United States will act so unjustly, or Impolitically
"as to endeavour to deprive you of any part of your
"Country under the pretence of having conquered
"it. — The King still considers you his faithfull
"Allies as his Children, and will continue to promote
"your happiness by His protection and encoura
"=gement of your usual intercourse with Trade,
"and all other benefits in His power to afford you. —
"Therefore I do in the most earnest manner recom
"=mend to you for your own advantage to bear your
"losses with Manly fortitude, forgiving and forgeting
"what is past, looking forward in full hopes and expe
"=ctation that on the return of the Blessings of Peace,
"and cool and just reflection, all animosity & enmity
"will cease, Conciliation succeed, and Friendship be
"renewed, and as a proof of your Inclination to promote
"that desirable end, let me once more recommend to
"you to collect and give up without exception, all
"Prisoners that may be yet among you, and as an
"inducement to comply with what I recommend, and
"as a proof of His Majesty's bounty and attention: I have
"brought up a large assortment of every thing necessary
"to supply your wants. And I have farther the
"Satisfaction to acquaint you, that so far from your
being—

"being neglected or cast off when your services can no longer
"be wanted (as has been very injustly imagined and reported)
"The King has ordered out a large assortment of Goods to
"supply your further wants, as well as to afford relief to
"all such among you who by the fortune of War, the loss of
"Friends, old age or infirmities, are rendered unable to
"support themselves: I must recommend to you to be
"unanimous among yourselves, and not to seperate or
"scatter about the Country, and thereby weaken yourselves
"and lessen your consequence, and to advise your Young
"Men to desist from all acts of Hostilities, otherwise they
"may draw on themselves the resentment of the People on
"the Frontiers, as had been very near the case some time in
"May, in consequence of the Shawaneese and Delawares
"on the waters of the Miami's having taken a number of
"Women & Children, as has been represented by the
"Commissioners from Fort Pitt. I have only to add,
"that let my Situation be where it will, I shall never
"lose sight of your Interest. I shall therefore inform
"you from time to time of every thing that may be of
"consequence, or in the least Interesting to you, expecting
"at the same time alike friendly confidence
"on your part. —

A Belt of Eleven Rows.

Children!

This Speech is so fully expressive of every-thing that at present concerns your interests, I have only to add that I earnestly enjoin the several Nations present to a strict adherence and compliance thereto, & I am happy to have it in my Power at this time to deliver you a part of the Clothing mentioned, which I flatter myself will fullfill the Engagements heretofore made to you, and convince you that your Fathers attention is extended to all his Children, and having finished what I had to say on our part, I desire your attention to the Deputies of the Six Nations, who will lay before you the late Councils held at Niagara

‖ Delivers a large String.

In Council Sep^r. 7^th.

Present as at the 8^th.

M^r. M.Kee finished his Speech of the Sixth, which he was obliged to defer on account of bad weather, after which the Deputation from the Six Nations addressed them the several Nations present as follows.

Captain Brant Salutes the Nations present in the usual manner and then said

Brothers and Nephews, We the Chief Warriours of the Six Nations with this Belt clear your Ears, that you may listen with attention and without any interruption to what we have to say.

‖ Delivers a Belt,

Brothers and Nephews — We now conform to the Ancient Custom of our Fore Fathers, to condole with you for the loses you have sustained in the War, and we hope your Minds will now be eased from all trouble, since we have gathered the bones of all your dear departed friends and covered them over, so that all is smooth and even

‖ Delivers a large Belt,

Brothers and Nephews.

We shall now

acquaint you with our motives for taking an early and active part in the War: at first, it was hard for us to determine which side to join with, as they were the same People fighting against each other, but upon mature and deliberate consideration, we thought it incumbent on us to join the King our Father, for had we pretended to be Neutral, we shou'd have been divided amongst ourselves; for our Young Men would have acted on some side or other, by which we might have fought against each other and ruin ourselves. Actuated as we were by our Feelings & reasonings, we could not but adhere to our former Engagements of Fidelity to the King of Great Britain, we therefore resolved to take that side, and urged you also to do so, altho' the Force of the Americans appeared to be more powerfull than that of the [illegible] it did not deter us from following [illegible] our Principles, nor were we at the time of Peace was announced to us, either tired of the War or even afraid, for our preparations of the War were as much in readiness last Winter as ever.

|| Several Strings,

Brothers and Nephews

We shall now inform you of the transactions of Councils held at Niagara by Brigadier General Sir John Johnson, this Summer with us. He informed us that the Peace was brought about, and desired us for to remain quiet and cease Hostilities. We accordingly agreed to lay our Hatchets aside and looked with watchfull Eye towards our Lands, from the boundary Line which was agreed to fifteen Years ago. And Sir John Johnson assured ~~us~~ that the boundary line lately agreed to, did not deprive us of our Lands. The war not being of our own making, we readily agreed to what Sir John had recommended to us, altho' we the Six Nations are never hasty in our resolves when matters of War are concerned; and altho' we have laid the Hatchet aside, shou'd they give us just Cause to use it, we shall nevertheless be able to take it up in defence of our Rights. We mean to take care that we give no cause of rupture on our parts. Brothers and Nephews, we desire you to pay attention to this, and do the same thing that we have resolved to, and do nothing in a hasty manner, let every thing go thro' its proper Channel that we may be of one mind and act alike.

" Delivers a Belt,

Brothers and Nephews attend. "

Sir John Johnson recommended farther: That as it was the custom of the English, as well as ours, at the conclusion of a Peace to set the Prisoners at liberty; he hoped that we would follow the same rule, to which we immediately complied, for as we declared before, that we wou'd give no cause of offence on our parts, and if we take up the Hatchet it would be the cause of the White People and not ours: We therefore earnestly recommend to you to do the same as we have done, that the Prisoners be set at Liberty." Delivers

|| Delivers a Belt,

Brothers and Nephews, you the Hurons, Delawares, Shawaneese, Mingoes, Ottawaas, Chippaways, Poutteawatomies, Creeks, & Cherokees. We the Six Nations with this Belt bind your Hearts and minds with ours, that there may be never hereafter a Separation between us, let there be Peace or War, it shall never disunite us, for our Interests are alike, nor should anything ever be done but by the Voice of the whole as we make but one with you

Delivers a large Belt,

Tsindattan then Speaks on Several mixed Strings.

Father!

We return you and the Six Nations our hearty thanks for the Speeches you have given

Father!

At the time you assembled us at Detroit and took us by the hand to accompany you to this place, we did not understand that it would be any part of your business to collect our Prisoners. we are deceived in that for we understood when the Hatchet was put into our hands, that whatever was taken from the Enemy should remain with us in order to strengthen our Nation, therefore I will not assist you in that part.

|| Several Strings.

W

Mr. M:Kee then said.

I am rather surprized that you pretend ignorance of the business we came upon, when I had a meeting with you before I left Detroit on the arrival of the Deputies from the Six Nations. I told you they came to promote the General good, and that I thought it necessary for some Chiefs to accompany me and their Elder Brethren to this side of the Lake; in order to inform the several Nations who are situated near the Americans, of the particulars we have received of the Peace, that they may take care not to put themselves in the way of bringing mischief upon themselves. What has now passed this day before this Assembly, is meant for your good only, if you duly attend thereto, and as to the giving up of Prisoners, it has been ever a Custom both with you and the White People, at the conclusion of a Peace to give them up. Therefore as that is now the case you can no longer consider yourselves deceived.

|| Delivers Several Strings

Pendatton then said

Father and Brethren of the Six Nations listen to me.

You know very well when you arrived at Detroit where our Council Fire is, I then desired to know the business you came upon, but you did not tell me, then my Father took me by the hand to assist him on his business. Now that I have heard your several Speeches with that of my Father, I am pleased, as they are all good; and I am convinced that what you have said will give general Satisfaction: I beg of you the Six Nations to adhere to all you have said, and never deviate therefrom, but continue in the same mind.

" Delivers a Belt,

T'sindatton then addressed the several Nations present in 2 White Belts, in behalf of the Lake Indians.

Younger Brothers Listen to me.

Now I assist my Father and our Elder Brethren the Six Nations. Our Tomahawks are now laid close to our sides, but there are yet many of our Young Men who have their Eyes fixed upon it, and they might steal it from our sides to make use of it unknown to us. Therefore I throw rubbish over it that they may not find it, and I desire you to attend well to what was said this day.

" Delivers 2 Belts,

Puyneeta in behalf of the Shawaneese.

We have listened with attention, and we agree to what has been said. As soon as we get home we shall endeavour to comply with what our elder Brethren the Six Nations have recommended to us.—

Deyonquat the Half King, Speaks on all the Speeches

Father!

I hold in my hands your Speeches with that of our Elder Brethren the Six

Nations. as they require the serious Consideration of all the Nations who reside in this Country, we shall hold a Meeting among ourselves and let you know our answer thereon tomorrow.

In Council September 8th 1783

Present as at the 7th

Deyonquat the Half King Speaks on a Belt in behalf of the Delawares.

Father!

This day the Great Spirit has permitted us to speak to you in the presence of our Elder Brethren the Six Nations. It has pleased you to Kindle the Council Fire at this place, at which you have desired me to deliver up all the Flesh and blood we had taken from the Virginians during the War. - Our Nephews the Delawares spoke first and agreed with what you desired, and delivered up five Prisoners which they brought with them at this time. They leave all that are yet among them, at liberty to go when they please, or to remain with them, as they consider them as their Flesh and Blood.

// A white Belt,

- He then Speaks on Strings for himself and the several Nations in this Country.

Father!

We request of you to listen,

as also our Elder Brethren the Six Nations. At this Council Fire you desired us to give up the Virginian Flesh and Blood. We have accordingly been among those of our People, and after enquiring we find that they are contented to return home, but wish to go the way they came from. You the Six Nations told us that you had permitted all your Prisoners to be at Liberty, and recommended to us to do so also, which we agree to. They are all at Liberty, and may return home as soon as matters are properly setled, that they may get there in safety.

// Delivers Several Strings,

He then speaks in behalf of the Indians in general

Father! Listen! as also our Brethren the Six Nations: You have told us there is Peace. You Know the Rights of us Indians in this Country, and you also Know that the Tomahawk is now laid down. Brethren the Six Nations you Know where the Boundary Line was fixed, since you were the People who fixed it. We now inform you that the Virginians are already incroaching upon our Lands, and we desire you and our Father to be Strong, and desire them to desist from encroaching upon us, otherwise they will destroy the good Work of Peace which we are endeavouring to promote — This is all that we have to say.

" Delivers Strings,

C. Mr McKee then said,

Children!

I return you my hearty Thanks for your readiness in complying with the requisition made by your Father, and I am rejoiced to see you so unanimous in doing right. It fulfills the good end of my meeting you at this place, which is to promote your happiness and Welfare. and I am well pleased to find you all so strong in this good Work, and that a single breath which rashly blows, can have no effect in turning you aside from the strait path laid before you by your Father and Elder Brethren the Six Nations, who in the most Solemn manner yesterday renewed the union of your Hearts & Interests, to enable you to speak and act like One Man. — Whilst you continue to do this, there can be no doubt but you will prosper in your endeavours to live happy.

Captain Brant then spoke in behalf of the Six Nations.

Brothers and Nephews!

I return you our Thanks for your speedy Compliance to what has been required of you in this Council. As you desire us to be strong who are acquainted with the Boundary Line of the Virginians.

Brethren and Nephews we are determined to be so, and to represent the Encroachment of the Virginians into our Country as soon as we return home, and as we are now to act like One Man, we take a few of your Chiefs by the hand, and lead you to our Council Fire, where you may be able to assist us in what you are so desirous shou'd be done.

Delivers a Belt,

11. (Signed)

Copy from the Minutes

J. Schieffelin

Secretary

BRITISH MUSEUM

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Copy from the Minutes

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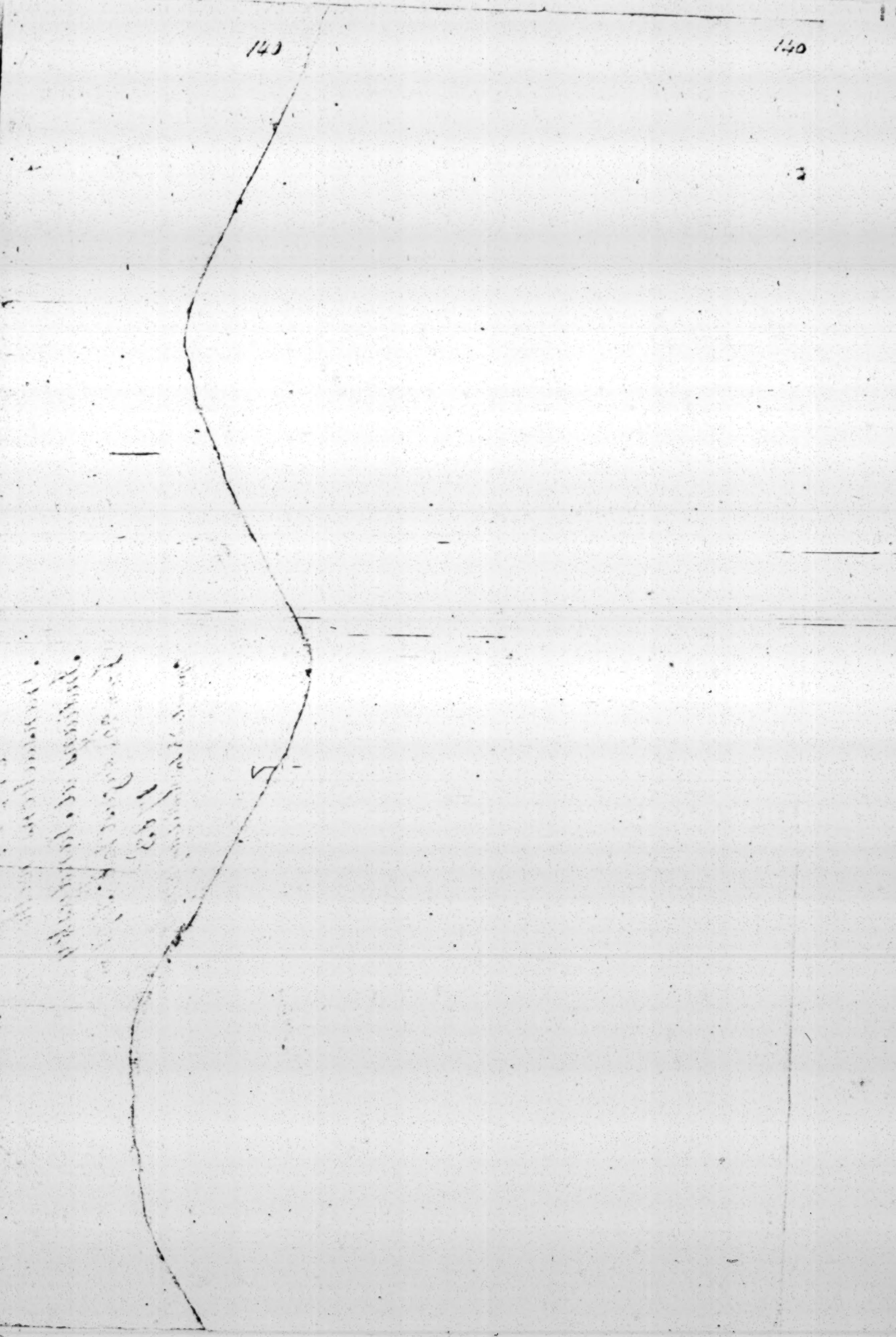
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Transactions [illegible]
Indians [illegible]
From 24 August to 6 Sept [illegible]
1763

Copy inclosed [illegible]

allow any [illegible]

Received Letters from Lieut. Colonel De Peyster relative to an Outrage which the Virginians of Kentuck had Committed upon the Indians. I hope the Precaution taken by Brigadier Maclean to acquaint Genl. Washington with the truth of these Transactions will have the desired effect, & that the Congress will second the Efforts which His Majesty's Officers are Sedulous to make in order to secure a Permanent Peace to the Americans with the Indian Nations on this Continent.

I have the Honor to be &c.

(Signed) Fred. Haldimand

Lord North

Quebec August 27th. 1783

My Lord/

I have the Honor to inclose Duplicates of my Dispatches which were sent by the Brig Tarleton, and I have now the pleasure to transmit by the Brig Providence which Sails this day, the Report which Sir John Johnson has made of His Proceedings with the Six Nations of Confederate Indians at Niagara, I could have wished that in the Translation the Indian Idiom had been more preserved — however, Your Lordship May be Assured that the Sense is Strictly adhered to notwithstanding the determination of the Indians to defend and preserve their own Lands — I consider the Inclination which the Mohawks have to settle on the North side of Lake Ontario near Cataraqui is a fortunate Circumstance, and shall Continue to adopt every measure with the other Indian Nations that may best tend to prevent any rupture between them and the United States of America. — I am making preparations, agreable to their request, for a Settlement of Royalists near Cataraqui, where the Land is fertile, and the Climate rather better than at Montreal.

Some Transports have arrived from New York with about 700 (Chiefly Women and Children) of the Unfortunate People who are in want of every thing — It shall be my Study to do all in my Power to alleviate their present Distreſs, tho with the best Economy. In regard to their future expectations, I have proper Persons employed to Ascertain their several former situations in Life, as well as their Claims from their Services and sufferings in the Cause of Government in order to make as equitable a distribution of His Majesty's Bounty as Circumstances will admit, when I shall be Honored with His Majesty's Commands relative to the Encouragement to be given to the Royalists, as well as such as have served in this Province, as those who have emigrated hither from New York — In the mean time I shall employ Surveyors to examine and Mark out such Lands as are most proper for them in different Parts of the Province.

I have the Honor to be &c.
(Signed) Fred. Haldimand

Lord North/

Quebec October 14th 1783

My Lord

The Proselyte Frigate arrived here the 6th Instant, having been detached from the Newfoundland Fleet to carry the Officers and Ships Company of the Canceaux to England. Captain Faulkener tells me that the Bull dog had arrived the latter end of July and was

Albany August 29th 1783. 1

The instructions of the honourable Legislature directed to us as Commissioners for Indian Affairs Came to hand on the 26th Inst. and as these are intended to direct our Conduct in the discharge of the trust reposed in us we have Considered them with the utmost Care and Attention.

We are doubtfull of the propriety of Offering at present any Terms to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras on the Subject of Exchanging their Lands for others more westward, because we apprehend their Backwardness in yielding to us their own undisputed Territory for Lands possessd and owned by the Senecas and if the proposals of this State were once known to the Indians (and after a Treaty with the oneidas it Cannot be Keept secret) it would afford a pretext to the Senecas and their Allies to Recommence Hostilities or at least Create such Jealousies of our proceedings as would possibly Embarrass Congress in treating with the Indians About ay We also foresee objections at present to that part of the Instructions which direct us on their Refusing an Exchange to buy their Lands or to ascertain their Boundaries For altho. the Oneidas & Tuscaroras are at present our political friends they are Equally apprehensive with other Nations, That advantages will be taken of their weakness and this will in a Great measure be Removed if a General peace is once Concluded Between the Indians and us — We Have therefore Concluded to suspend the Execution of the Business intrusted to us untill your Excellency Can lay Before the — Turn over

Honourable the Legislature these Reasons we would, also wish to add that the and Instruction are Silent as to our power of Appointing an Interporter and Secretary nor is any Mention made how the Expences which wi necessarily increase in every stage of the Business to be paid or advanced.

We are
with the Greatest respect
Your Excellencys
Most Humble & obed.t
Servants
Henry Glen
Peter Schuyler
Abraham Cuyler

His Excellency
George Clinton Esq.r
Governor &c

4

Albany Way 2/-

His Excellency

George Clinton Esq.r

Governor of the State of
New York &c. &c.

Poughkeepsie.

Albany

[illegible] commiss.
of Indian Affairs. –

From A 1783.

B. Genl. Maclean

29th Augt. Recd. 12th Sept.

[Copy] Lower Sandusky 5th Sept. 1783

The Several Nations being now all arrived a Meeting was called among themselves of the principal Warriors at which a large belt sent two years ago by a Deputation from the Six Nations to the Southward in order to Unite the Northern and Southern Indians to prosecute the War, then carried on with Vigor, was now returned to the Six Nation Deputies present by the Shawanese and Cherokees accompanied by several Speeches tending to assure the Six Nations of their willingness to join in defence of their Country which appeared to them at this time more necessary than ever as the Americans were encroaching upon different parts of it, therefore it required the Serious Consideration of their elder Brethren the Six Nations and their Fathers the English who had hitherto wisely advised what had been of General good to their Interest. That it would be grievous to them to hear they had changed the System that appeared more than ever essential for their preservation and happyness as their Situation was alarming if they could judge from the words and actions of the Americans who made no Secret of their design upon their Country declaring pretentions to it by conquest and its being given up to them by the English who were thrown upon their backs — but we hope no Nation will tamely give it up, it is the gift of the great God who made all things to us and we have already Spilt the best of our blood in defending it, therefore in Sure and certain hope of the Six Nations never loosing sight of what is encumbent upon us all to preserve we are ready to listen to them and to look towards them for assistance and advice. —

/ True Copy /

Pride Selby, Secy

Indian Conference
at Sandusky the
5th Septr. 1783 —

Entd. in Book C / No. 3 / fol. 28.

(Copy)

Head Quarters Quebec 11th Sept 83

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th Ultimo desiring my Permission to dispose of your Lieutenant Colonelsy in the Kings or 8th Regiment in favor of the Regiment. However unwilling I am to deprive the Service of an Officer of your Experience, the long and faithful Services you plead in your own, and the Behalf of the Officers in question, who are the Eldest in Succession, both in their Corps and in the Line induce me to grant this Indulgence which I have directed the Adjutant General to Signify to You.

I am Sir &c

(Signed) Fred Haldimand

Lieutenant Colonel Dundas

At a Council held at Lower Sandusky the 6th September 1783 by Alexr. McKee Esqr. Deputy Agent of Indian Affairs with the Hurons of Sandusky, Shawanese, Delawares Mingoes Cherokees, and Outawas —

Present

Alexr. McKee Esqr. Dy. Agt.
Captain I. Chene Huron Interpr.
Captain Elliott
Lieut. W. Johnston
Simon Girty Six Nation Interpreter
Captn. Joseph Brandt with a Deputation of the Six Nations
[illegible] with a Deputation of the Lake Indians round it

Mr. McKee address'd them,

Children!

After Saluting the several Nations now assembled at this Council Fire I am to acquaint you that in consequence of Instructions sent to me by Brigadeer General Sir ohn Johnson Superintendant General of all Indian affairs in Canada I am come here to meet you having found it expedient to call you together at this place in order to avoid delay in apprising you of the Councils lately held by him with the Six Nations at Niagara especially as your immediate Conformity there to appears absolutely necessary for your future wellfare and happyness as well as suitable to the good of your Father the King of Great Britains Service — Therefore I desire you may listen with attention that what is now delivered to you may make a proper impression upon your minds and that you may be enabled thereby to reap the benefits of good advice. —

Strings,

Children! The kind Concern expressed by your Fathers the English upon all occasions for the Losses Sustained by you during the War and which at the late Meeting held with you at Detroit has been already covered over by your Father Lieu Colonel DePeyster makes it unnecessary for me to add more upon the Subject than that I hope it has been sufficient to ease your minds and prepare your [illegible]ts to receive with Satisfaction the tidings of Peace which is now communicated to us by Brigadier General Sir John Johnson whom his Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint to preside over all your affairs — in respect to the Six Nations in the following manner: that "although the King your Father has "found it necessary for the happyness and ease of his more Domestic "Subjects to conclude a long, bloody "expensive and unnatural war "by a Peace which seems to give "you great uneasyness on account "of the boundary line agreed upon

"between His Majesty Commissioners
"and those of the United States,
"yet you are not to believe or
"even think that by the line
"which has been directed it was
"meant to deprive you of an
"extent of Country of which the
"Right of Soil belongs to, and is
"in yourselves as Sole proprietors
"as far as the Boundary Line
"agreed upon and established in
"the most Solemn and Public
"manner in the presence and
"with the consent of the Governors
"and Commissioners deputed by
"the different Colonies for that
"purpose by your late worthy
"Friend Sir Wm Johnson in the
"Year 1768 at Fort Stanwix,
"neither can I harbour an
"Idea that the United States
"will act so unjustly or Impolitically
"as to endeavour to deprive
"you of any part of your Country
"under the pretence of having
"conquered it. The King still
"considers you his faithful Allies

and

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"and his Children and will continue to promote your happiness by his protection and encouragement of your usual intercourse with Trade and all other benefits in his power to afford you. Therefore in the most earnest manner recommending to you for your own advantage to bear your losses with manly fortitude forgiving and forgetting what is past looking forward in full hopes and expectation that on the return of the blessings of Peace and cool and just reflection all animosities and enmity will cease, Conciliation succeed and Friendship be renewed and as a proof of your inclination to promote that desirable end let me once more recommend to you to collect and give up without exception all Prisoners that may be yet among you and as a proof of His Majestys

"bounty and attention I have brought
"a large assortment of every thing
"necessary to supply your wants—
"And I have further the Satisfaction
"to acquaint you that
"so far from your being neglected
"or cast off when your Services
"can no longer be wanted as has
"been very unjustly imagined and
"reported the King has ordered out
"a large assortment of Goods to
"Supply your further wants as well
"as to afford relief to all such
"among you who by the fortune
"of war the loss of friends, old
"age, or infirmities are rendered
"unable to Support themselves—
"I must recommend to you to be
"unnanimous among yourselves
"and not to seperate or Scatter
"about the Country and thereby
"weaken yourselves and lessen
"your consequence, and to advise
"your young Men to desist from
"all acts of Hostilities otherways
"they may draw on themselves the
"resentment of the People on the

„ Frontiers as has been very nea
„ the case some time in May
„ in consequence of the Shawanoe
„ and Delawares on the Waters of
„ the Miamis having taken a
„ number of Women and Children
„ as has been represented by the Commissioners
„ from Fort Pitt — I
„ have only to add that let my
„ Situation be where it will I
„ shall never lose Sight of your
„ interest I shall therefore inform
„ you from time to time
„ of every thing that may be
„ of any consequence or in the
„ least interesting to you expecting
„ at the same time a
„ like friendly Confidence on
„ your part —

A Belt Eleven Rows

Children! This Speech is so fully expressive of every thing that at present concerns your interests — I have only to add that I earnestly enjoin to

Several Nations present to a strict adherence and Complyance thereto and that I am happy to have it in my power at this time to deliver you a part of the Clothing mentioned which I flatter myself will fulfill the engagements heretofore made to you and convince you that your Fathers attention is extended to all his Children and having finished what I have to say on our part I desire your attention to the Deputies of the Six Nations who will lay before you the late Councils held at Niagara

(Several large Strings

The 7th September

Present as at the 6th

Mr McKee finished his Speech of the Sixth, which he was obliged to defer on accoun of bad weather after which the Deputation from the Six Nations address'd the several

Nations present as follows

Captain Brandt Spoke, saluted the Several Nations in the usual manner & said –

Brothers & Nephews –

We the Chief Warriours of the Six Nations clear your Ears that you may listen with attention and without any interruption to what we have to say

A Belt,

We now conform to the ancient Custom of our fore Fathers to Condole with you for the losses you have Sustained in the war and we hope that your minds will now be eased from all trouble since we have gathered the Bones of all your dear friends and covered them over so that all is smooth and even.

A large Belt,

Brothers & Nephews.

We shall now acquaint

you of our Motives in taking an
early and active part in the War,
at first it was hard for us to determi
which side to join with, as they were
the same People fighting against
each other but upon mature and
deliberate Consideration we thoug
it incumbent on us to join the King
our father, had we pretended
to be Neutral we should have
been divided amongst ourselves
for our young men would have
acted on some side or other, by
which we might have fought
against each other and ruined
ourselves. — Actuated as we were
by our feelings and reasonings we
could not but adhere to our
former Engagements of Fidelity
to the King of Great Britain —
therefore we resolved to take that
side and urged you also to do so
although the force of the Ameri-
cans appeared to be more powerful
than that of the King yet it
did not deter us from following
the dictates of our principles, nor
were we at the time that Peace
was announced to us either tired
of the War or, were afraid, for

our

your preparations for war was as far in readineſs last winter, as ever,

Strings

Brothers and Nephews

We shall now inform you of the transactions in a Council held by Sir John Johnson with us at Niagara this Summer, He informed us that the Peace was brought about and he desired us to remain quiet and Cease Hostilities, we accordingly agreed to lay our Hatchets aside and look with watchful Eye towards our Lands from the Boundary in which was agreed to 15 Years ago for Sir John Johnson aſsured us that the Boundary line agreed to lately did not deprive us of our Lands. The War being not of our own making we readily agreed to what Sir John Johnson had recommended to us - altho' we the Six Nations are ever happy in our resolves when

made

matters of War are concerned - Tho we laid the Hatchet aside, should they give us just cause to use it we shall nevertheless be able to take it up in defence of our Rights, we mean to take care that we give no cause of offence on our parts Brothers and Nephews. We desire you to be attentive and do the same thing that we have resolved to, do not do anything in a hasty manner let everything go through its proper channel and we shall then be of one mind and act alike —

— J. Bett —

Brothers & Nephews, attend; Sir John Johnson recommended further "that as it was the custom of the English as well as ours at the conclusion of a Peace to set all the Prisoners at liberty, he hoped that we would follow the same rule," which we immediately complied for as we declared before we would give no cause of offence on our parts, and if we take up the hatchet again it would be the cause of the white People and not ours we therefore earnestly recommend to you to do the same as we have done that the Prisoners be set at liberty—, A Belt,

(6) Brothers and Nephews. You the Hurons, Delawares, Shawanese Mingoes, Ottawaas, Chippeways Poutteawatomies, Creeks and Cherokees We the Chiefs & Warriors of the Six Nations with this Belt bind your Hearts and Minds together with ours, that there may be never hereafter a Separation between us let there be Peace or War it shall never disunite us for our Interests are alike, nor should any thing ever be done but by the united Voice of us all, as we make but one with you—

, A large Belt,

Tsindatton then Speaks on several mixed Strings—

Father! We return you and the Six

Nations our hearty thanks for the goo Speeches you have given us — At the time you assembled us at Detroit and took us by the hand for to accompany you to this place, we did not understand that it woul be any part of your Business to collect our Prisoners, we are deceived in that, for we understoo when the hatchet was put into our hands that whatever was taken from the Enemy should remain with us in order to strengthen our Nation therefore I will not assist you in that part —

Several Strings,

Mr. McKee then addressed the Speaker —

I am rather surprized that you pretend ignorance of the business we came upon, when I had a Meeting with you before I left Detroit on the arrival of the Deputation of the Six Natio I told you they came to promote the general good and that it woul be necessary for some Chiefs to accompany me and them to this

side of the Lake in order to inform
the Nations who are Situated near
the Americans of the particulars
we have received of the Peace
that they may take care not
to put themselves in the way of
bringing mischief upon themselves
what has now past this Day before
this Assembly is meant for your
good if you attend thereto, and as
to the giving up of Prisoners it
has ever been a Custom both with
you and the white People at
the conclusion of a Peace to give
them up, therefore as that is
now the case, you can no longer
consider yourself deceived

Several Strings

Tsindatton then said

Father and Brothers of the Six
Nations Listen to me. you know
very well when you arrived
at Detroit where our Council
fire is I then desired to know
your business, but you did not tell
me, then my Father took me
by

by the hand with the other Nations for to assist him on his busyness, now that I have heard your Speeches with that of my Father I am satisfied as they are all good - I am convinced that what you have said will give general Satisfaction I now beg of you the Six Nations to adhere to all you have said and not to deviate therefrom but continue in the same mind — A Belt,

— he then address'd the several Nations present on a white belt in behalf of the Lake Indians -

Younger Brothers Listen to me Now I do assist my Father and my elder Brethren the Six Nations our Tomohawks are now laid close to our side but there are yet many of our young men who have their Eyes yet fixed upon it and they might Steal it from our Sides to make use of it unknown to us, therefore I throw rubbish over it that they may not find it and I desire you to attend well to what was said this day -

A Belt,

Kyneek in behalf of the Shawaneys says: Father!

We have listened with attention and we agree to what has been now said, as soon as we return home we shall endeavour to comply to what our Elder Brethren have said —

Duyonquad the Half King takes in his hand all the Speeches and says

Father!

I hold in my hand your Speeches with that of our elder Brethren the Six Nations as they require the serious consideration of all the Nations who reside in this country we shall hold a Meeting amongst ourselves and let you know our answer thereon to morrow, after a Meeting among ourselves

8th September

Present as at the preceding Days —

The half King Speaks on a Small

belt in behalf of the Delawares

Father!

This day the Great Spirit has permitted us to speak to you in presence of our Elder Brethren the Six Nations it has pleased you to kindle the Council fire at this place at which you have desired me to deliver up all the flesh and blood we had taken from the Virginians during the war, our Nephews the Delawares spoke first and agreed with what you desired and delivered up five Prisoners which is all they brough with them at this time, they also leave all that are yet with them at liberty to go when they please or to remain with them as they consider them as their flesh and blood —

A white Belt,

He then speaks on mixed thing for himself and the other Nation in this Country —

Father, We request of you to

listen

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Listen, as also the Six Nations our elder brethren, — at this Council fire you desired us to give up the Virginians & Chandlers, accordingly we have been among those of our People who have them and after enquiry, we find that they are contented to return home, but wish to go the way they came from you the Six Nations have told us that you had permitted all our Prisoners to be at liberty and recommended to us, to do so also, which we now agree to, they are all at liberty and may return home as soon as matters are properly Settled that they may go home in safety —

Several Strings

He then says on Strings in behalf of the Indians in General Father! Listen as also our Brethren the Six Nations you have told us there is Peace you knows the rights of us Indians in this Country and you also know that the Tomohawk is now laid down you the Six Nations know where. The Boundary line was fixed since you were the People who fixed it, its therefore that we now inform you that the Virginians are already encroaching upon our lands and we desire you and our Father to be Strong and desire them to desist from encroaching upon us otherwise they will destroy the good work of Peace which we are endeavouring to promote this is all we have to say at this time (Strings)

Mr. McKee then said

Children! I return you my hearty thanks for your readiness in Complying with the requisition made by your Father, and I am rejoiced to see you so Unanimous in doing right it fulfills the good end of my Meeting you at this place which is to promote your happyness and wellfare, and I am well pleased to find you

all

ll so strong in the good work and that a single breath which rashly blows can have no effect in turning you aside from the streight Path laid before you by your father and Elder Brother the Six Nations who in the most solemn manner yesterday renewed the Union of your Hearts and Interests to enable you to speak and act like one Man—whilst you continue to do this there can be no doubt but you will prosper in your Endeavours to live happy—

Captain Brandt in behalf of the Six Nations said—

Brothers & Nephews.

I return you our thanks for your speedy compliance to what has been required of you in this Council and as your desire is to be strong who are acquainted with the Boundary line of the Virginians Brethren & Nephews

We are determined to be so and to represent the encroachments of the Virginians into our Country, as soon as we return home, and as we are now to be like one man I take a few of your Chiefs by the hand and lead you to our Council fire where you may be able to aſsist us in what you are so desirous should be done

A Belt,

Copy from the Minutes
Jn Schieffelin
Secy

Lower Sandusky 9th Sept 1783

The Council was this Day ended, and the several Nations aſsembled and a considerable present of Merchandise was then delivered to them —

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Montreal 8th Septr 1783

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Copy of a Speech from General Schuyler to the Six Nation Indians, Inclosed to me by Lieutenant Colonel Butler, who had just received it, and had sent for a few of the Chiefs to explain it to them and intended, recommending to them to wait for my Advice before they answered it, he would also endeavour to pacify them until he received my answer, which I am sending off this day, and shall desire them to wait till I know your Excellency's Sentiments upon the Subject — I think Mr Schuyler has left opening for a very spirited reply, and I have no doubt but they will make it so. —

His Excellency General Haldimand

In a letter from Mr McKee he acquaints me that Mr Dease, with the Deputies from the Six Nations, was arrived at Detroit, and that they were then preparing to sett off for Sandusky to meet the several Nations Assembling there to receive them —

Mr Clench of Lieutenant Colonel Butlers Corps having declined the Ensigncy in my Second Battalion, I would be glad to know If it is your Excellencys pleasure that he should receive the pay which has been drawn, as he has drawn upon me for it, or Whether it is to be retained for Whoever may succeed him — Volunteer Crawford has been doing Duty at Oswego in the Second Battalion ever since the Post was Established, and is therefore Well entitled to that Indulgence, if not intended to be otherwise disposed of —

Having had an Application from Major Fonda, of Tryon County, to return him his Negroes, brought in by me in 1780. in Consequence of Lieutenant Colonel Butlers acquainting him that I would Willingly do so, provided I could Obtain your Excellencys Approbation. As I imagine he would be glad to return me some of mine in lieu of them, that are in his Neighbourhood, I should be glad to know your Excellencys pleasure on that head.—

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Sir,
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant
John Johnson

From NY — 83

Sr John Johnson
of Sepr — 8th
Recd — 10th

At a meeting of the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations, in consequence of General Schuylers speech, bearing date the 29th July 1783 —

We the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations aſsembled, acknowledge the receipt of General Schuylers Speech to us, in Thirty two days after the date accompanied by a Belt; and which we have duly considered, and return the following Answer.

We are greatly surprised at General Schuyler telling us that Congreſs has not yet signifyed its pleasure to the Commiſsioners for Indian Affairs on a peace with the Indians, but permit us to say that Congreſs has already made offers of peace to us, as well by letters to the Commanding Officer at this Post, as by two principle Commiſsioners sent into the Indian Country (who lately left this place) with full Power to treat on that Subject; in consequence of which, many of our Sachems and principle Warriors are gone to meet our younger Brethren the Western and Southern Nations now at Sandusky, earnestly recommending Peace and Friendship, and requesting their acceptance of the terms of Peace offered by Congreſs, also to entreat them to collect, and chearfully give the prisoners, that they may be restored to their respective families, to which, we make

General Schuyler

not the least doubt but they will readily agree, as the has been unanimously agreed upon by all the Six Nations in presence of Sir John Johnson, and the Commanding Officer at this Post, with many other Officers &c., ~~from~~ previous to our receiving General Schuylers speech, or sending this deputation to Sandusky, and on the return of our people from this great meeting with our younger Brethern (whom we expect in a few days) we will then without loss of time dispatch a runner to inform General Schuyler the time that the Chiefs &c. will probably be at Oneida, —

But in the interim we assure General Schuyler that we are hearty and sincere in our desire of Peace and Friendship with Congress—

To confirm this our Answer we send a Belt herewith. —

Niagara 8th Sepr. 1783—

As translated by }
the Interpreter }

BRITISH MUSEUM

(Copy)
The Six Nations Answer
to General Schuylers speech
Niagara 8th Sepr 83

Rd Sepr 20th

Copy of a Letter from
Alex.r McKee Esq.r
from Lower Sandusky
4th Sep.r 1783 to
Colonel DePeyster Com-
manding Detroit &c
A.

Oswego 8th Sepr 1783 —

Sir

James Caferty the person I mentioned in my Letter of the 11th Augst who has arrived from the Mohawk River with passes from Governor Clinton and General Washington permitting him to go to Detroit, — I have detained agreeable to your orders, every day expecting your instructions how to dispose of him. I was obliged to furnish him with provisions, and indulged him to walk about the Fort, or where he pleased, and he appeared contented, only seemed anxious of getting to his family at Detroit.

On the evening of the 2d Instn Ensign Lundie of the 2d Battn K.R.R. N York who acted as Fort Major to the Garrison requested leave to be absent from parade the next morning to go a Shooting, as he was always very attentive to his Duty, I consented, peace connected, only [illegible]

family at Detroit

On the evening of 4th Nov.r Serj.t Lambery of the 2 Batt.n 60th R.t who acted as Serj.t Major to the Garrison requested leave to be absent from parade the next morning to go a shooting, as he was a steady man and very attentive to his Duty, I consented. about 3 in the afternoon enquiring if he was returned and was answered he was not, I was soon after told that Corporal [illegible] with the [illegible] Enlisted (one of the Sick Men left by Major Ross but [illegible] measure) had not been seen all the Day. I immediately suspected they had Deserted, and on examining their rooms found my suspicions too well grounded. The Serj.t was entrusted by Mr Hamilton Merch.t

at Cataraqui with a small assortment of Merchandize
to furnish the Garrison, he carryed off all the said Stock
of Valuable Merchandize with him, which, the
Capacity who certainly has been the occasion of, must
have been known &c. I sent off a Flagg of Truce
with two Letters one to the Officer Commanding at
their nearest post of the [illegible] to Governor Clinton,
& the latter letting him know Mr [illegible] knew
of the [illegible] [illegible] he has [illegible] of his [illegible]
[illegible] proper [illegible] requesting that they might
be returned, if not as Deserters they might at Pleasure
and delivered up to Justice, & the Officer [illegible]
they might be secured till the Governour's pleasure
might be known.

I am Sir your most obedient
humble Servant

[illegible] Esqr.
[illegible]

Sandusky Sepr. 9th. 1783

Sir

Having finished the business which called me to this place with the Nations upon this side of the Lakes, I have the Honor to forward the Transactions with them, and to acquaint you that this Meeting has been of singular Service in removing the Doubts and uneasiness which these Nations were under in our part, and fulfilling the promises made to them, as far as they could reasonably expect, as well as tending to prevent their drawing mischief upon themselves in continuing Hostilities against the Frontiers of the United States; which they have now Solemnly declared they will desist from; altho' they are under great apprehensions of their designs upon their Country, which indeed the Conduct of the Americans has given too much grounds to the justice of their Suspicions: having marked the Country upon this side of the Ohio as far as the neighbourhood of Kooshawking, and Tuskarawas, and the report of an Indian from Fort Pitt has confirmed this opinion; as he says during his stay there, which was a few days: numbers of Boats were passing down the Ohio, which he was informed were going to take up Lands upon the Indian side near the Shawaneese, and Hunters just returned from that Quarter, say that they fell in with several Parties of Virginians in their hunting grounds,

Brigadier Genl. Sir John Johnson Bart. &ca

who told them they were taking up Lands there before their Great People engrossed it, which they expected would soon be the case: Those informations has Alarmed the Deputies of the Six Nations who attended at this Meeting, and they have invited Chiefs from those Nations to accompany them Home, in order to assist in representing the unjust encroachments making on their Country. I have just received a Speech delivered to the Shawanese on the Exchange of Prisoners with the Americans at the Falls of Ohio, which expresses their Sentiments with regard to the Indians. It is also herewith enclosed. Letters this way from Fort Pitt, mentions with confidence the Ratification of the Definitive Treaty. Tomorrow I expect to be able to set out on my return to Detroit. & have the Honor to be

with the greatest respect

Sir

Your most Obt. & very

Hble Servant

A. McKee

P S. This moment arrived a Loyalist
m Fort Pitt. His information being of an
trutting Nature is herewith enclosed.

A. McKee

Copy)

Head Quarters Quebec 11th Sept. 1783

Sir

I have received the Favor of your Letter of the 8th Instant, covering the Copy of a Speech from General Schuyler to the Six Nations Indians — It certainly merits a spirited Reply from them, and I should neither be Surprized nor displeased to find that it meets with such — But as it is our invariable duty to Consiliate the Minds of the Indians, and to reconcile them as much as possible to the Peace which His Majesty has seen fit to make, paying due attention at the same time to the Interests & happiness of the Indians, You will please to Communicate to them from Me, my earnest desire that they will pursue Steadily that moderation and forbearance which I have from the first Cessation of Hostilities so strongly recommended to them, and which they have, very much to their Honor, so punctually observed — for it is by that Conduct they will recommend themselves to a Continuance of the King's Benefits and Regards — and I am the More pressing in this advice to them, as I still Hope that in Consequence of My Recommendations of them matters May not terminate so unfavorably as we had at first reason to apprehend. I by no means expect them to lye by and

See

Brigad. Genl. Sir John Johnson —

See their Country over run, or ravaged by the Americans, but they need not Apprehend any thing of the Kind from General Schuyler's Speech, It is the Interest of the Americans to be on good Terms with the Six Nations, and they will use every Means to accomplish that End, however they may vapor in their Speeches

If Colonel Johnson has not already put You in Possession of all the Records and public Papers &c — of the Six Nations & other Indians left with Him by Sir William Johnson, and all papers of the Kind Subsequent to his Time, You will please to deliver the inclosed Order to Him, and Receive them.

It is not in my Power to send an Engineer as I intended, to explore the Country towards the Grand River, but Lieut. French of the Loyal Rangers, who I am told is very Capable, will receive orders, by this opportunity to proceed to Montreal for that purpose, where he will Meet Mr. Collins, the Deputy Surveyor General for his Route to Cataraqui, to see some Plans he will have, and Confer with Him upon the Subject — Yours, and Major Ross's Parties will be in readiness for their separate views —

I am &c —

Signed) Fred: Haldimand

I have no objection to your taking
the necessary steps for the recovery of your
negroes from Mr Gundy whenever you shall
think fit

(Copy) 1783

To Brigad. General Sir
John Johnson, of 11. Sepr.

Brothers

I rec.^d your friendly Talk by Pipea
Young-man, who your Chiefs requested
assist them, with your Women &c

I am much pleased with you
in informing me, that some foolish
have come to your Land, to steal H
I do not blame you for the Harm
which, you treated them, as it is
Orders of the Head-men, of the B
that no Person shall go to your L
to do you any harm, or steal your
while you are in Friends [illegible] as.
rather [illegible]
to this Place, that we might shew
we disapprove of such Conduct, by
=ing the Offenders ——

Now Brothers. As you h
great many Men of our Flesh & B
Prisoners in your Hands, whose Friends
Relations, are daily crying to me, to
home, I am in hopes you will Sen
by M.^r Sherlock such of our Fle
as he shall apply for & you may te
Men that brings them to this Place
they shall receive an handsome Pre
[illegible]

[illegible] so much of [illegible], that you would co
detain Prisoners, after Peace is made, for it is a Custom
ith great Warriors to give up all Prisoners on
ides as soon as Peace is made, and as you live nea
to the Place where the Great Council is to be
etween the Americans & the Red People you
[illegible] what is done sooner [illegible] I
[illegible] the Particulars [illegible]
shall satisfy him — Now Brothers, as some
of our People is coming to your land with
salt to trade with you understanding you are in
want of that Article, I expect you'll give th
Protection & as some of them want to go to
Pitt you'll inform them if there's any Dan
The Cherokies are constantly [illegible]
they [illegible]
[illegible] of [illegible] the War [illegible]
young men seem very uneasy & can hardly be
from going to War, but I hope your good
will soon remove that Obstacle by driving
bad People from your Land, and you and
Big Knife may ever hold fast the Chain
Friendship —

Made at Fort Nelson [illegible]
Anno Domini one thousand
hundred & Eighty Three
George Walls
Majr. Comt.

To the Chiefs of
he Shawnese Nation
nd Mingoes — —

(a Copy)

Charles [illegible]

State of Pensilvania
In gen^l. Aſsembly Sept^r 12
1783.

Gentlemen,

You are hereby instructed to lay before Congreſs the peculiar situation of the State of Pennsylvania, which renders a conferance with the Indian nations that live adjoining to our frontiers at this time neceſsary.

The General Aſsembly of this Commonwealth, by their resolve of the seventh of March A. D. 1780 promised certain donations of land to be laid off to their officers and soldiers at the end of the war. And have since that time by a particular law appropriated the lands belonging to this State Westward of the Ohio and Allegheny rivers for that purpose, and for the purpose of redeeming the certificates of depreciation.

The time is now come when justice must be done to our Officers and soldiers as well respecting the said lands as their certificates of depreciation.

The custom of Pennsylvania has always been, to purchase the right of poſseſsion, from the Indian nations, as being more consonant to Justice and leſs expensive, than force. This however cannot be done without some convention or conferance with the Indians, for that purpose.

Altho' this business may be said strictly to regard only the internal police of Pennsylvania, And the conference proposed does not extend to any description of Men without the limits of the United States, nor regard any of the great objects of peace or war. Yet our high respect for the Confederation determines us to lay open the whole design of the State to Congress.

Sensible likewise as we are that the whole expence of this particular business must rest with Pennsylvania, yet perhaps the wisdom of Congress may improve this conference to the general benefit of the union.

We wish you to use all reasonable expedition in this matter, and hope the measures we are taking for the satisfaction of the Pennsylvania line will meet with the ready concurrence and approbation of the great Council of the nation.

By Order of the House

Fredk A Muhlenberg

Speaker,

Honble the Delegates of Pennsylva.

The Honorable

The Delegates of Pennsylvania

Princeton

Quebec September 15th 1783 26

Sir

I have received your Letter of 3d instant with the Sketch of Point [illegible] &c and am very much obliged to you for the Trouble you have taken to [illegible] that Ground [illegible]. I entirely approve of your Idea of changing the Situation of the Town to Point [illegible] and having given my Orders to Mr Collins accordingly, [illegible] any Alterations which you may think necessary and in laying out the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] you will [illegible] Extent of Ground [illegible] as you judge proper, [illegible] your Idea concerning them.

[illegible] few Days [illegible] of [illegible] will leave Montreal with a Body of Loyalists [illegible] [illegible] proper Orders [illegible] when they arrive you will [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

upon [illegible] — when they arrive, you will supply them with [illegible] Things they may want and proceed with them with the utmost [illegible] to Montreal as soon as possible. — and in order to [illegible] my Intentions with this first Detachment you will [illegible] with Savages [illegible] by an Intelligent Person [illegible] the [illegible] of the Country [illegible] Remarks — [illegible] from [illegible] 100 [illegible] acquainted with the [illegible]

From the Report of Sir John Johnson [illegible] reason to expect that the [illegible] will establish themselves [illegible] accompanying [illegible] to the Mohawks [illegible] to [illegible] which I have desired Sir J. Johnson to [illegible] the Matter and [illegible] Service may require, which [illegible]

I am

Sir

Your most humble

and most obedient Servant

Major Ross

Montreal 18th Septr 1783

Sir

I am honored with your Excellency's letter of the 15th Instant, and have in Obedience thereto Ordered the Men to be in readiness, and furnished Lieutenant French with every thing Necessary for his jaunt, he is to set off the day after to Morrow.—

Last Night I received a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Butler with the enclosed speech, which falls far short of what I expected and what I am pretty sure would have been said, had they waited the return of the Chiefs from Sandusky.—

I have also received a letter from Lieutenant Colonel DePeyster Accompanying his Account of Indian Expenditures &c from the 1st of February 1782 to the 24th of last Month, Amounting to Six Thousand Nine hundred and Seven pounds some

His Excellency General Haldimand

Shillings

and for Which he has drawn on me, a great part of it is for borrowed Goods, Which I have sent up to replace, and some of the Charges Appear to me, very exhorbitant, I have therefore put off the Acceptance of the Bills till I know Your Excellency's pleasure, And I shall transmit one of the Accounts to Your Excellency that I think most Extravagant, to Morrow, that it may be compared with former ones and Approved or disapproved as may be judged right—

I have the honor to be
with great Respect
Sir
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient and
most Humble Servant
John Johnson

From A 1783.

B. Genl. Sr. J. Johnson

18th Septr. Recd. 20th.

this Post, I have for better than two Months past extended my Credit as far as possible in purchasing Provisions for the Garrison and in order to be enabled to see the Troops supplied. I would beg your Excellency and the Honble. Board would be pleased to order £300 to be forwarded to me by Lieut. Erb, whom the utmost Necessity obliged me to send.

With the greatest Respect,
I have the Honor to be Sir,
Your Excellency's Most obedient,
and most humble Servant,
PHIL. SHRAWDER Captn. P. R.

Directed,
His Excellency John Dickinson, Esqr., President, Philadelphia.

Return of Captains Robinson and Shrawders Companies of Pennsylvania Rangers stationed at Wyoming, Septr. 17, 1783.

	Capt'ns.	Lieut's.	Ensign.	Serjeants.	Corp'ls.	Drum & Fife.	Privates.	Voluntiers.
Capt'n Robinson's Comp'y Fit for Duty,	1	1	1	1	2	2	25	
Sick,				2	2		8	
Capt'n Schrawder's Comp'y Fit for Duty,	1	1		2	2		20	1
Sick,							4	
Total,	2	2	1	5	6	2	57	1

One Box of Cartridges,
66 Muskets.

PHIL. SHRAWDER, Captn. P. R.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS—INDIAN AFFAIRS, 1783.

The United States in Congress Assembled September 20th, 1783.

Congress took into consideration the report of a Committee consisting of Mr. Duane, Mr. Peters, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. A. Lee, to whom were referred instructions to the Delegates of Pensylvania, and the same being read as follows:

"That the legislature of Pensylvania be informed in answer to the request of the Delegates of that State in consequence of Instructions from the said legislature of the 13th Instant.

That Congress have no objection to a conference being held on behalf of the State of Pensylvania with the Indians on their borders, respecting a purchase to be made by & at the expense of the said

State, of lands within the limits thereof; provided no engagements relative to peace or War with the said Indians be entered into by the said State, the power of holding treaties on this subject being vested by the Confederation solely in the United States in Congress Assembled, and also provided that due notice of such meeting be given to the Executives of Virginia & New York who shall have it in their option to send Commissioners to the said conference.".

A motion was made by Mr. Gerry seconded by Mr. Ellery that the farther consideration of the report be postponed until Thursday next, and on the question for postponing, the yeas & nays being required by Mr. Gerry.

Newhampshire.	Mr. Foster,	ay.	X
Massachusetts.	Mr. Gerry,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Holten,	ay.	
	Mr. Higgenson,	ay.	
Rhode Island.	Mr. Ellery,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Howell,	ay.	
Connecticut.	Mr. S. Huntington,	no.	D^{d}
	Mr. B. Huntington,	ay.	
New York.	Mr. Duane,	no.	D^{d}
	Mr. L'Hommedieu,	ay.	
New Jersey.	Mr. Boudinot,	no.	no
	Mr. Clarke,	no.	
	Mr. Condict,	ay.	
Pensylvania.	Mr. Fitzsimmons,	no.	no
	Mr. Montgomery,	no.	
Virginia.	Mr. Jones,	no.	no
	Mr. Madison,	no.	
	Mr. Mercer,	no.	
North Carolina.	Mr. Hawkins,	no.	no
	Mr. Williamson,	no.	
South Carolina.	Mr. Read,	no.	X

So the question was lost.

The report having been then amended so as to read,

"That Congress have no objection to a conference being held on behalf of the State of Pennsylvania with the Indians on their borders for the sole purpose of making a purchase by & at the expence of the said State of lands within the limits thereof; provided that due notice of such meeting be given to the Executives of Virginia & New York, who shall have it in their option to send Commissioners to the said Conference."

A motion was made by Mr. Higgenson seconded by Mr. Holten, farther to amend the report by adding after the word "thereof," the following words, "after terms of accomodation shall have been agreed on between the United States & those Indians;" and on the question to agree to this amendment the yeas & nays being required by Mr. Gerry.

Newhampshire	Mr. Foster,	ay.	X
Massachusetts.	Mr. Gerry,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Holten,	ay.	
	Mr. Higgenson,	ay.	
Rhode Island.	Mr. Ellery,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Howell,	ay.	
Connecticut.	Mr. S. Huntington,	ay.	ay
	Mr. B. Huntington,	ay.	
New York.	Mr. Duane,	ay.	ay
	Mr. L'Hommedieu,	ay.	
New Jersey.	Mr. Boudinot,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Clarke,	no.	
	Mr. Condict,	ay.	
Pensylvania.	Mr. Fitzsimmons,	no.	no
	Mr. Montgomery,	no.	
Virginia.	Mr. Jones,	no.	no
	Mr. Madison,	no.	
	Mr. Mercer,	no.	
North Carolina.	Mr. Hawkins,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Williamson,	ay.	
South Carolina.	Mr. Read,	no.	X

So the question was lost.

A Division of the question on the report was then called for, & on the question to agree to the report as amended, so far as the proviso, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. Fitzsimmons.

Newhampshire.	Mr. Foster.	no.	X
Massachusetts.	Mr. Gerry,	no.	no
	Mr. Holten,	no.	
	Mr. Higgenson,	no.	
Rhode Island.	Mr. Ellery,	no.	no
	Mr. Howell,	no.	
Connecticut.	Mr. S. Huntington,	ay.	ay
	Mr. B. Huntington,	ay.	
New York.	Mr. Duane,	ay.	ay
	Mr. L'Hommedieu,	ay.	
New Jersey.	Mr. Boudinot,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Clarke,	ay.	
	Mr. Condict,	ay.	
Pensylvania.	Mr. Fitzsimmons,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Montgomery,	ay.	
Maryland.	Mr. Carroll,	no.	X
Virginia.	Mr. Jones,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Madison,	ay.	
	Mr. Mercer,	ay.	
North Carolina.	Mr. Hawkins,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Williamson,	ay.	
South Carolina.	Mr. Read,	ay.	X

So the question was lost.

A motion was then made by Mr. Duane seconded by Mr. Ellery, in the words following:

Whereas the Delegates of the State of Pensylvania, have laid before Congress a resolution of the legislature of Pensylvania in the words following:

(Here the resolution of the 12th September, 1783., is inserted.)*

And the said Delegates having also laid before Congress an instruction from the said legislature in the words following, Viz:

(Here the instruction, same date with resolution, is inserted.)

Resolved, That the legislature of Pensylvania be informed in answer to the said representation that as soon as an agreement shall have taken place for the cessation of hostilities between the United States & the Indians engaged on the side of the British in the prosecution of the war, (for which measures are now under deliberation,) Congress will cheerfully consent to the negociation proposed by the legislature for the purchase of the Indian Claim, to lands within the limits of that State.

On the question to agree to the foregoing motion the yeas and nays being required by Mr. Duane.

Newhampshire.	Mr. Foster,	ay.	X
Massachusetts.	Mr. Gerry,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Holten,	ay.	
	Mr. Higgenson,	ay.	
Rhode Island.	Mr. Ellery,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Howell,	ay.	
Connecticut.	Mr. S. Huntington,	ay.	ay
	Mr. B. Huntington,	ay.	
New York.	Mr. Duane,	ay.	ay
	Mr. L'Hommedieu,	ay.	
New Jersey.	Mr. Boudinot,	ay.	ay
	Mr. Clarke,	ay.	
	Mr. Condict,	ay.	
Pensylvania.	Mr. Fitzsimmons,	no.	no
	Mr. Montgomery,	no.	
Maryland.	Mr. Carroll,	no.	X
Virginia.	Mr. Jones,	no.	no
	Mr. Madison,	no.	
	Mr. Mercer,	no.	
North Carolina.	Mr. Hawkins,	ay.	D^{d}
	Mr. Williamson,	no.	
South Carolina.	Mr. Read,	ay.	X

So the question was lost.

Extract from the Minutes.

GEO. BOND,
Dep^{y} Sec^{y}.

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* Not inserted in this Copy.

Albany September 21st 1782

Sir

I have the honor to inclose your Excellency an extract of a Letter, which I received on the 19th instant from a correspondent in Canada, of whose fidelity, and veracity I have had frequent experience, and afford the fullest faith, to whatever he relates as of his own knowledge.

Perhaps the temper of the Indians, as stated in the extract may be improved to public advantage, and the calamities, which the frontiers of this, and other states have fatally experienced in the course of the war, from the barbarous incursions of the savages, be in future prevented, should that predatory war which they have prosecuted and which seems to have at present subsided be hereafter again attempted by the British. Experience has strikingly evinced that altho we may at a vast expence penetrate with a body of troops into the country inhabited by the indians, destroy their hutts, and oblige them to fly. yet the moment the force withdraws, they return with an increased animosity of which the unhappy inhabitants, on a long extended frontier, feel the horrid effects. vain have been the efforts of the troops which have been raised, and supported, at a heavy expence, for the protection of these distressed people, effectually to secure them; and nothing I humbly conceive, will afford them permanent safety, but a reduction of the enemies fortresses in the interior of the country, or a peace with the indians, to succeed in the first, under the present embarrassed state of our finances, I fear, is not within the compass of our power, but I am strongly Impressed with a belief that the latter may be obtained, the most discerning of the Indians having recently made me communications indicative that the hostile tribes would sollicit an accomodation, if reason was afforded them to hope, that they could accomplish it, on tolerable conditions;

whether it will correspond with the views, and Intentions of Congress, to permit the Commissioners of Indian affairs, to encourage an application for the purpose. It is for that honorable body to decide, and, permit me, to intreat their determination, and to direct our line of conduct, should overtures be made us, either directly from the "Indians" or even or indirectly thro' the agency of the Oneidas, the one, or the other of which, I am almost confident will speedily happen.—

I have the honor to be with great respect

Your Excellency's

most obedient Servant

Ph. Schuyler

His Excellency John Hanson Esq President

Letter 20 Sept 1782

P. Schuyler

Read Oct. 1. 1782.

Referred to Mr Boudinot
& Mr Duane
& Mr Williamson

Extract of a Letter from Canada dated Sept. 2d 1782

"Dispatches have been lately received by General
"Haldimand from the ministry, the following is what
"I have collected of their contents — That a reinforcement
"of between three and four thousand men might soon be
"expected from England and about fifteen hundred of
"the foreign troops from New York — That the posts in the
"upper country were to be reinforced and the works
"strengthened — That all the fortifications in this province
"are to be put in the best state of defence possible — That
"it was in contemplation to point the whole force of
"the nation against the French and Spanish settlements
"in the west indies — That incursions into your country
"by indians and small parties were no longer to be
"permitted — Since the arrival of these dispatches
"battoemen are engaging to convey a large quantity of
"flour and military stores to the westward — Beef and
"pork they have none to send at present, but a fleet
"from Ireland is daily expected with a large supply —
"About seventy Chippeways 200 Ottawas and as many of
"the six nations left this a few days ago they were told
"by Campbell* that they must not go to war as the King

* meaning Colo: Campbell, one of the british agents for Indian affairs in Canada —

" had compassion on his American subjects they having expressed
" their sorrow for what they had done, Conjanquelecta
" the Seneca sachem replied that the Americans and
" French had beat the English, that the latter could no
" longer carry on the war, and that the Indians knew
" it well and must now be sacrificed, or submit to the
" Americans, that it was time to attend to their own
" concerns and listen no longer his lies, Campbell
" tryed to sooth and make them believe otherwise, but
" in vain. I was present at this conversation which
" took place in presence of all the Indians, and many
" Inhabitants – The Indians after receiving considerable
" presents went home little satisfyed with their situ-
"-ation" –

Copy)

Head Quarters
Quebec 22nd Sepr. 1783

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 18th Instant covering a Speech of the Six Nation Indians in answer to one from General Schuyler I wish it had been delayed until the Return of the Deputies from Sandusky, for tho it expresses what we have now to wish for, and must encourage, I join with You in thinking it falls short of that Spirit and Energy which has always distinguished the Speeches of the Six Nations, particularly since the cessation of Hostilities

I am astonished that Lieut Colo. DePeyster should have drawn Bills for the Amount of the Goods, He borrowed from the Merchants at Detroit, for temporary Supplies for the Indians, knowing my positive and repeated Orders to the Contrary. You will please therefore to protest, without Hesitation, all Bills drawn upon You on that Account from Detroit, or any other Quarter — The Fortune which the Messrs. McCombs have made by Government during the War might very well indemnify any little Inconvenience they should have sustained by waiting until the Goods Borrowed could be replaced.

I am Sir &c

(Signed) F. H

Brig. Genl. Sir John Johnson

(Copy)

To

Brig. Genl. Sir Jno. Johnson

at Montreal 22nd Sepr

From 1783.
Lieut. Col. Dundas
26th Septr. Recd. 3d Octr.

Sir — Niagara 27th. Septr. 1783

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In my last letter I had the honor to inform Your Excellency that I intended to send the Rum belonging to the Schenectady Men to Oswego, and to direct Captain Gumersal to assist them in Crossing the Oneida Lake. The day before they left this place they came to me imploring in the most Anxious manner they might be permitted to Store the Rum here that it was impossible for them with three men to get through Wood Creek, indeed they Convinced me fully that without they had Boats & men from the Garrison of Oswego to the Mohawk River, the Carrying of it with them was impracticable I then told them I would Order Captain Gumersal to Store it at Oswego, they told me they had no sort of Objection; but begg'd to Mention that there were no merchants Stores or Merchants at Oswego, and that the Rum would not by any means be so Secure at Oswego, as at Niagara, that as they found a merchant that would give them Store Room at there Own risk they intreated leave to permit the Rum to remain here till next Summer at their Own risk. I then sent for Lieut Colonel Dundas and Major Hoyes of the 34th. and in their presence they Signed three Copies of the Inclosed Article, One Copy they Carried With them, and the third Copy I keep here, upon which I agreed to their the Rum at their own Risk, Mr. Street gave them Store, this I did as I really saw the impossibility of their being able to Carry it Back, and had

General Haldimand

He

the Rum been Lost in Wood Creek, they then in all Probability would have made a Noise but I am hopes that inclosed Certificate will put it Out of their Power. I granted them also permission to Sell five Barrells of Rum to get as Much as pay what they owed here during there Stay they Sold it at five Shillings per Gallon Which was less than it Cost them, but it was their own request, and I thought it would be Cruel to refuse them Subsistance. And I am not without hopes Your Excellency will not disaprove of my having done So they left this the 15th. And I am Clear they nor any other of the same Sort will again attempt Coming here lett they have proper Authority for it —

Yesterday two Officers Wives of the Rangers with a Number of Children came here from Schenectady, one of them the wife of Capt Tinbrook the other wife to Lieut Hanson and Niece to Colonel Butler. — Inclosed I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency a Letter I had from Captain Gomersoll, by which you will see what Sort of fellows are attempting to come to this Place with Passes from General Washington and Governor Clinton, Mr. Cassely has not Only abused the indulgence given him but he has intised a Serjant and a private man of Sir Johns to Commit a Robery & desert with him. I likewise herewith to transmit to Your Excellency a Letter from Lieut Colonel DePeyster together with some other Papers which Mr. McKee, and the Information of John Little, its a most amazing Circumstances, that the Americans Should persist in their Cruelty and Barbarity to our People, in direct Violation of the Treaty of Peace, and yet have the impudence to Come amongst us, without fear or dread, I declare to god if any of them Comes I Shall Confine them till I can send them Back. But I am of Opinion they will not attempt coming to this Place again Untill next Spring — The 50 Indians of the Six Nations that went to Confer with the western Indians at Sandusky are Come Back Well pleased, they have made a League Offensive and defensive with the Southern & Western Nations and have agreed, Except in their Own defence if attacked; or their Country invaded; they are ready & willing to be at Peace and friendship with the Americans, provided the frontier men makes no Encroachment on their Lands &c. — The deputies of the Six nations have brought back with 36 of the Western & Southern Indians, in Order to be present in a General Council of the Chiefs of the Six Nations to Confirm the General League & every thing that has been done at Sandusky, they are to meet here on the 29th and when its over, your Excellency Shall be informed of the result, the Indians in General are heartily & seriously disposed to peace and tranquility, —

I have the honor to be with great respect
Your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
most Humble Servant
Allan Maclean

I had almost forgot to Mention to your Excellency that Mrs. Hanson one the two Ladies that came here two days ago with Part of her Family, as she says, wanted to go back Again to Schenectady but this Sort of promiscuous Communications I will not, or Cannot Admit of, without Your Excellency approbation, Especially as I find many of the Rangers would go to that Country at all risks were they permitted so to do

From 1783
B. Genl. Maclean
27th Septr. Recd. 8th Octr.
Copy & Enclosure

Entd. in Book C, No. 3 / fol. 26

Niagara Oct. 3. 1783

Sir

We take the Liberty of representing to you that the Sick of this Garrison have already consumed a considerable Quantity of Peruvian Bark this Season; & that we have Reason to suppose that there will still be a large Demand for more —— We have made a Requisition to the General Hospital for sixteen Pounds of Bark, but lest any Accident should have happened to our Letters, we think it most prudent to make a second Application, in order that the Health of the Men committed to our Charge may not suffer

We have the Honour
to be Sir
Yr most Obedt
& most Humble Servts
R McCausland Surgeon
Kings or 8th Regt
James Donaldson
Surgeon 34th Regt

To
Brigr Genl Maclean &c &c

Sir — Niagara the 5th Octr 1783

The Season is now so far advanced that tho I am well convinced that your Excellency would wish to oblige me in any reasonable request, that I dispair of geting leave to go home Notwithstanding the reduction, with to me is a very great Misfortune; I am however perfectly Satisfied that if your Excellency thought it Consistent with the good of the Service, that I should have had permission, I am therefore Contented. —

However that I may not be wanting in that duty I owe my family I have wrote to my friends at home, and that I may be sure my Letters shall be duly delivered, and that there may be some person on the Spot that will from time to time refresh their Memory. I have taken the Liberty to send my Nephew Captain MacLean to Quebec to deliver this Letter to your Excellency requesting as a most essential favour that you will have the goodness to grant him permission to go to England to deliver my Letters, and attend my Business, and as the 84th Regiment is reduced and that all the Captains of that Regiment are now in Canada I trust and hope your Excellency will not think my request unreasonable, a disappoint in this favour will to me be a peculiar and

General Haldimand

a

Motion for reconsidering the report in favr of Penn &
sylvania jersey on the Indian Treaty made by Mr
Reed second by Mr Condict — 251

passed to reconsider.

Motion for amendment by Mr Ellery 2d by Mr Howel
yeas & nays by Mr Duane — by adding a Proviso &

~~[illegible]~~

2d amendmt. by Mr. Howel 2d Mr Ellery yeas & nays by
Mr Ellery —

	1st	2d
Mr Foster	ay *	ay
Mr Holton	ay	ay
Mr Osgood	ay	ay
Mr Ellery	ay	ay
Mr Howel	ay	ay
Mr S. H —	no	no
Mr B. H —	no	no
Mr Duane —	no	no
Mr L'Hommedieu	no	no
Mr Boudinot	no	no
Mr Condict	no	ay
Mr Peters —	no	no
Mr Montgomery	no	no
Mr Carroll	no	ay
Mr McHenry	no	ay

	1st	2d
Mr Lee —	ay	ay
Mr Mercer	no	ay
Mr Hawkins	no	ay
Mr Wmson	no	ay
Mr Reed —	no	* no

Motion for reconsiderg.
the report of Pennsylvania
respecting Indian Affairs
October 1783 ——

That the Minister of the U.S. in the negotiation of Peace be instructed to demand a Restitution of all Vessels belonging to the Citizens of the U.S. that have been captured to the Northward of the most southern Point of the Bermuda Islands after the according to the Agreement entered into by

Provided that no treaty shall be entered into with the Indians by the Commissrs appointed from the State of Pennsylvania until the commissrs of the United States for negotiating a treaty with the Indians shall have completed the same.

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nor with the exclusive right of Congress to negotiate treaties of peace. regulate trade & manage all affairs with the Indians not members of any particular State

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At a Meeting held at Niagara the 2nd October 1783 by the Chiefs & Principle Warriors of the Six Nations, and Thirty of the Shawanese, Delawares and Cherokees Deputed to speak in behalf of all the Western and Southern Nations —

Present

Brigr. Genl. Maclean	Capt. McDonell Rangers
Lt. Col. Butler Depy. Agt.	Lt. Brock 8th Regt.
John Dease Esqr. Dy. Agt.	Capt. Nelles Ind. Dept.
Lt. Col. Dundas Kings Regt.	Lt. Bowen Do.
Capt. Fraser 34th Regt.	Aaron Hill Interpreter —

Sagesia a Cayuga Chief rose and Spoke as follows.

We request your attention to what we are going to [illegible] consequence of a meeting at Sandusky [illegible] we are now assembled we beg leave to acquaint you that this meeting is our own being one people, it is therefore our Right to call a Council and invite you [illegible] Kindled by the Six Nations and Confederates in [illegible] have made it our study to attend the fire wherever desired [illegible] strictest attention to what was advanced, and still remember every [illegible] given us, to which, we have as nearly followed as circumstances [illegible]

Strings of Wampum

ents,

This is the Great Council Fire where all our Business has been transacted during the war, and we again assure you that every advice and recommendation has been fulfilled as much as lay in our power, at the eve of Peace, when it was strongly recommended to us to withdraw the Axe, and again be reconciled to peace and friendship with the [illegible] this we also Cheerfully agreed to, and flattered ourselves to sit down and once more be a happy people, but how soon was our hopes frustrated and every individual alarmed, when repeatedly the by the Americans, that the King had given them all our Lands, thi is not only by report, but we have since seen them on different parts encroaching on our Country — You who represent the King have repeatedly recommended and pressingly requested us to defend our Country and have lately told us in Council that you are not Conquered, we therefore wish to see you act accordingly and Desire the Americans not to cross the Line, nor inter with either our Persons or property, which is the earnest wish of all the Six Nations and Confederates —

a Belt.

Brothers. You have also repeatedly told us that you would remain with, and sh the same fate with ourselves, but on our serious Consideration we have reaso to fear that we shall be left alone to defend our Women & Children, and t Country that has so long supported them, against a people who seem determ to our ruin; this we beg that you'll recollect that you have repeatedly to us (during the war) to follow your Advice as it was, and would be our Interest so to do; we now intreat your Candour & plainly tell us ho we are likely to benefit by it, but we are apprehensive by the presen Appearance of Affairs that our Interest is greatly lessened, as we are not even thought of in the Provisional articles of We now open and Candidly, as Brethren, have delivered to you our Sentiments, and request the same from you as soon as possible —

a Belt —

October the 4th.

Brig.r Gen.l Maclean & Colonel Butler's Answer to the Si Nations & their Confederates Speech —

Present as before

Brothers We paid very attention to what you Delivered in Council the other d and are now aſsembled to give you our Answer according to promise —

Brothers

You have undoubtedly a right to kindle our Council Fire whenever you may think it neceſsary, and also aſsure You that we are at all times ready to attend and hear what our Brethren have to say and Cheerfully give them our Advice, — You certainly have always been a free People, and are still, and its our earnest wish that you may ever remain so; as to your strict attention to the Kings Fire it is very true, and doubtleſs you are sensible, that it never deceived, or led you astray. —

Strings of Wampum

Brothers

We have frequently told you in Council since Peace has been conclu upon between the King your father and the Americans, and we now ag repeat to you, that the Boundary Line agreed upon & settled by your late Worthy Friend and Brother Sir Wm. Johnson ~~Bart~~ at a Meeting held at Fort Stanwix in 1768 was all the Lands that the King ever Claimed, of course he could never give away what was not his own neither can the Americans with propriety ask it, — You ask our Answer to several matters which at present is out of our Power to but we will by the first opportunity transmit your Speech to the Commander in Chief and Sir John Johnson, whose answers, will no doubt give you Satisfaction and make your minds easy —

a Belt —

a Meeting of the Six Nations and the Deputies from the Shawanese, Delawares Cherokees, October 6th. 1783 —

Shoharise a Cayuga Chief spoke

ethren

We have called you our Younger Brethren to this meeting, to request your remembrance of every thing agreed upon in Council at Sandusky, and afterwards at this fire place, and we most earnestly request th you will on your return home, recommend Brotherly love amongst the Different Nations; be unanimous, and bound fast together in one Chain of Friendship, as we the Six Nations are determined to be of one mind & act as one man; and continue to follow the advice of our Brothers the English; we mean to keep this path, so that no faul can be found with our Conduct for acting contrary to what they have so often recommended, therefore wish you to encourage your young men to follow the same path, and look to us for advice, as we do to our Brethren the English for theirs; we soon expect the Definitiv Treaty of Peace, which will most certainly relieve us from our presen State of Suspense —

Strings of Wampum

This Belt we sent you some Years ago, in order to unite us all together as one, we are happy that it met with Success, and return you our most sincere thanks for the attention that was paid to us, & it, which has been the means of uniting many Nations with us, of course will terminate greatly to the advantage of all, we brought this belt from Sandusky the other day, to show it to our Chiefs & Warriors, but now return it to you again, as you are the most Central, consequently the most proper place for it to be kept, so that all our Brethren (when passing your Council fire) may have an opportunity of seeing it, to remind them of what has been said thereon. —

a Belt —

BRITISH MUSEUM

Brethren, These Belts we received from the Americans, as invitations to m them, but the Season being so far advanced, that we cannot possibly mee them untill Spring, but we will send messengers to acquaint them with the reason of our Delay — Should the Virginians invite you to Fort Pitt, we recommend to you to send a few of your people to attend, as we wish to live in friendship with the Americans; but at all events to keep our Lands, this we intend to tell them.

Meetings [illegible]
2d, 4th & 6th Octr [illegible]
Nations & a Deputation [illegible]
Shawanese Delawares & [illegible]

Copy transmitted to Lord Dartmouth in
Letter of the 1st Nov. 1773 (No. 7)

Cataraqui the 9th of October 1783

Sir

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that Capt. [illegible] Sherwood and Myself have marked the Lands up the lake [illegible] upon their [illegible] report of the same [illegible] I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency Mr. Collins [illegible] of the Bay and the Townships.

We [illegible] in taking Sketches of Prospects of [illegible] which have a most [illegible]

The [illegible] are attached to the Affairs of the Purpose of Purchasing their Land, This [illegible] to be nearly complete [illegible] Make the liberty to say that as this place is by far the greatest [illegible] of the Indians of Sir John Johnson

[illegible]

Carleton Island Octr 9th 1783

Sir

366.

According to your Directions I have purchased from the Missisaugues all the Lands from Toniata or Onagara River to a River in the Bay of Quinte within Eight Leagues of the Bottom of Said Bay including all the Islands, extending from the Lake Back as far as a man can Travel in a Day, the Chiefs Claiming the Lands at the Bottom of the Bay could not be got together at the present, I believe their Land can be got nearly on the Same Terms I bought this when I Seen them — the consideration Demanded By the Chiefs for the Lands granted, is that all the Familys Belonging to them shall be Clothed and that those that have not Fusees shall Receive new ones some powder and Ball for their winters hunting as much coarse Red Cloth as will make

them — The considerations Demanded By the Chiefs for
the Lands granted, so that all the Familys Belonging
to them shall be Clothed and that those that have not
Guns shall Receive one and also Powder and Balls for their
winters hunting so much Coarse Red Cloth as will make
about a Dozen Coats and as many Laced Hats, this I have
promised they should Receive so soon as I could get it, and
hope you will send the articles mentioned here as Government
The Lands Below the Fort was Claimed
by old Minas who commonly resides at Chenussedaunga I have
agreed for his Right with the Rest, this man has been of
much Service to me at this Time, he has Recd a Small
Belt for his Family, a Large one was Delivered to the Other
Chiefs concerned in the Sales with the usual ceremony, to be kept
in the Nation a Memorial to their Children that they may
know what their Fathers has Done at this Time &c —

the Missasaugues appear much Vexed that the white people are coming to live among them; three Onandaga Chiefs lately from Montreal were present and approved much of what the Missasaugues had done; not a word was said in Regard of the Mohawks — of any written obligation received from them at the [illegible] and Allegiance repeated —

I am
Sir
with much Respect
your most Obedient
Humble Serv.t

W. R. Crawford

with most Respect

your most Obedient

Humble Servt

W. Crawford

Captn Crawford 9th Apl
1783

REST OF VERSO IS BLANK

Saratoga October 11th 1783 (621

Sir

I have the honor to transmitt Your Excellency copy of a message from the indians at Niagara to me, which I received on the 9th instant.

If terms of peace, have really been offered by Congress, and accepted by the Indians, and as early as they mention, their surprize at the sentiments conveyed in my message of the 29th of July last was extreamly natural. Congress will judge of mine when I perused the inclosed.

Altho I have long since wished to decline attending to Indian affairs, and long since signifyed it to Congress. Yet I must lament that I was not advised, Congress had intrusted, (If they have) the negotiating a peace with the india to others, than the commissioners for indian affairs in this department, both because my message, if propositions of peace have been made, and accep cannot fail of impressing the savages with unfavorable ideas, and create suspicions in their minds which the british will not fail to improve to our disadvantage, and because I should not then hav been exposed to the disagreeable dillemma, which my feelings as a gentleman on the one hand, an regard for my country on the other, ~~[illegible]~~ which will expose me to when these indians appear in consequence of my recommendation. I therefore forcibly feel the propriety, so far as it respects a proper regard to myself, of dispatching a messenger to the indians advising them since they have concluded a peace with commissioners immediately appointed for that purpose, the necessity of any further negotiations with the commissioners in this Department is superseded, but Sir persuaded that such a message would be perfectly consonant to the wishes of the British, and promote the views they are assiduously cultivating, and incapable of sacrificing the interest of my Country, to a resentment however justly founded; I shall attempt to explain away the sentiments contained in my message of the 24th of July, in a manner least injurious to my country.

I have the honor to be with great respect & esteem Sir

Your Excellency's
most obedient Servant
Ph Schuyler

Excellency Elias Boudinot Esqr. &c

Letter 11 Oct 1783
Gen P. Schuyler
Read 29.—

At a meeting of the chiefs and warriors of the six nations in consequence of General Schuylers speech bearing date the 29th July 1783

We the chiefs & warriors of the six nations assembled, acknowledge the receipt of General Schuylers speech to us, in thirty two days after the date accompanied by a belt which we have duly considered and return him the following answer

We are greatly surprized at General Schuylers telling us that Congress has not yet signified its pleasure to the commissioners for indian affairs on a peace with the indians, but permit us to say that Congress has already made offers of peace to us as well by letters to the commanding officer at this post as by two principle commissioners sent thro the Indian Country (who lately left this place) with full power to treat on that subject; in consequence of which many of our Sachems and principle warriors are gone to meet our younger brethren the western & southern Indian nations now at Sandusky, earnestly recommending peace and friendship and requesting their acceptance of the terms of peace offered by Congress; also to entreat them to collect and chearfully give the prisoners that they may be restored to their respective families which we make not the least doubt but they will readily agree as the same has been unanimously agreed upon by all the six nations in presence of Sir John Johnson and the commanding officer at this post, with many other officers &c. — previous to our receiving

General Schuylers speech on sending this deputation to Sandusky, and on the return of our people from this great meeting with our younger brethren (whom we expect in a few days) we will then without loss of time dispatch a runner in order to inform General Schuyler the time that the chiefs &c will probably be at Oneida

but in the interim we assure General Schuyler that we are heartily and sincere in our desire to maintain peace & friendship with Congress – to confirm this our answer we send a belt herewith

Niagara 8th Sept. 1783

As translated by the Interpreter at Niagara

Copy

Major Walls Speech to the Shawaneſe at exchanging Priſoners - Falls of Ohio this 7th July 1783 —

Men and Warriours

I Shall now Speak to you in anſwer to what you sayd Yesterday, and expect you will open your Ears to what I have to say.

When you arrived here, we met you in Friendſhip, because you came with a Flag to make an Exchange of Priſoners agreable to my Request, and I thank you for the Kindneſs Shewn to the Meſsenger I sent you with a Flag for that Purpose.

You Called us Yesterday, your Eldest Brothers, we ought to be so, but have not behaved like Brothers. — We have Seperated and been destroying each others Flesh & Blood. Your Fathers the English have made Peace with us for themselves, but forgot you their Children, — who fought with them, and neglected you like Bastards — But Since we are Warriours met together to do Buſineſs and have Shook Hands, I hope we Shall understand each other and Spend the time in Friendſhip! The Day may come when you and Us may make Peace also, when our Hearts will be set right, our Eyes cleared, and our Ears — opened, so that we may See, hear and understand each — other Clearly.

I understand there is a great Council to be held between the Americans and the red People which I make no doubt will bring about a General Peace. Therefore hope when you return, you will advise your Young Men to lay Still and not to go to War, till they hear what our great Men have done, and we will do the same Friendly part by you

Now my Brother Warriours, as the Day is Clear,

I

I hope you will understand us, and believe what we say – I am Glad to See our Flesh and Blood, and am happy to find we can do Busineſs so friendly together. I make no doubt but you will hold fast the Chain of friendship, and if you should want to Settle, the Road is open for you to come with a Flag and Speak with us friendly, and if any of our People should have Occasion to go and See you in a friendly Manner to do Busineſs, I expect they will meet with Protection.

Done at the Falls of Ohio July 7th 1783
Signed Geo: Wall
Commandt

Copy No. 5 1783

Major Wall's Speech to the Shawaneese. - Falls of Ohio. 7th July

In Gov.r Haldimand's (No. 16) of 14 Oct.r 1783.

Copy/

Minutes of Transactions with Indians at Sandusky

Tuesday the 26th August at 5 P. M. arrived at Sandusky

Wednesday the 27th in the Morning dispatched Runners to expedite the Gathering of the Indians. The Rain prevents the unloading the Veſsel for this Day.

Thursday the 28th employed in unloading the Indian Presents from on Board the Faith

Friday 29th Nothing Extra:

Saturday the 30th The Veſsel made Sail from hence

Sunday the 31st Arrived an Indian from Fort Pitt who had accompanied the Guide of the American Commiſsioners thither. He brought a Letter from thence directed to Lieut Col. De Peyster. He reports that Boats frequently were paſsing down the Ohio, that the Officer Commanding at Fort Pitt had endeavored to Stop them, fired on Some and taken others. He was informed that their Design was to encroach on the Indian Country; that notwithstanding the Vigilence of the Garrison there, upwards of fifty Boats had paſsed. He says he was not able to judge the real Cause, but that the People seem'd to be in Commotion, and that a Loyalist who went on a paſs from the Commandant of Detroit was seized and Confined, on pretence of his having acted with the Indians against them at a Place called Hannas Town.

Monday the 1st September. The Half King and about three Hundred Indians arrived from the Upper Town.

Tuesday the 2d Nothing Extra.

Wednesday the 3d The Shawanese arrived. The Deputies of the Six Nations request that the Faith, which was prevented from geting out of the River by Contrary Winds, should be detained to carry them back to Fort Erie, as they wished to return as soon as poſsible on Buſineſs of importance, accordingly She was ordered to wait for them.

Thursday the 4th The Chilicathi Indians arrived.

Friday the 5th The Several Nations being now all arrived A Meeting was called amongst themselves, of the Principal Warriours, at which a large Belt sent two Years ago by a Deputation from the Six Nations to the Southward in order to unite the Northern & Southern Indians to prosecute the War (then carried on) with Vigor, was now returned to the Six Nation — Deputies present; by the Shawaneese & Cherokees accompanied by Several Speeches tending to assure the Six Nations of their Willingness to join in Defence of their Country, which appeared to them at this Time more necessary than ever, as the Americans were encroaching upon different Parts of it, therefore it required the Serious Consideration of their Elder Brethren the Six Nations, and their Fathers the English who had hitherto wisely advised what had been of General Good to their Interest. That it would be grievous to them to hear they had changed the System that appeared more than ever essential for their preservation and Happiness, as their Situation was alarming if they could judge from the Words & Actions of the Americans, who made no Secret of their Designs upon their Country, declaring Pretentions to it by Conquest, and its being given up to them by the English who were thrown upon their Backs — But We hope no Nation will tamely give it up! It is the Gift of the Great God who made all Things to us, and We have already Spilt the best of our Blood in defending it, therefore in Sure and Certain hopes of the Six Nations never loosing Sight of what is incumbent upon us all to preserve: We are ready to listen to them and to Look towards them for Assistance and Advice.

At a Council held at Lower Sandusky the 6th. September 1783 by Alexander McKee Esqr. Deputy Agent for Indian Affairs, with Hurons of Sandusky, Delawares, Shawaneese Mingoes Creeks & Cherokees —

Present

Alexander McKee Esqr. Depy. Agent
Captain Cherne, Ottawa & Chippawa Interpr.
Captain McElliott
Lieut. Wm. Johnston.
Simon Girty, Interpr.
Captain Joseph Brant with a Deputation from the Six Nations.

Tsindatton with a Deputation of the Lake Indians from Detroit

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Mc.

Mr. McKee addressed them

Children

After Saluting the Several Nations now assembled at this Council Fire. I am to acquaint you that in Consequence of Instructions Sent to me by Brigadier General Sir John Johnson Superintendant General of all Indian Affairs in Canada, I am come here to meet you having found it expedient to call you together at this Place in order to avoid Delay in apprising of the Councils lately held by him with the Six Nations at Niagara, — especially as your immediate Conformity thereto appears absolutely Necessary for your future Welfare and Happiness, as well as Suitable to the Good of your Father the King of Great Britain's Service. Therefore I desire you may listen with Attention, that what is now delivered to you may make a proper impression upon your Minds, and that you may be enabled thereby to reap the Benefits of good Advice.

4 Delivers a Belt

Children! The Kind Concern expressed by your Fathers the English upon all Occasions for the Losses sustained by you during the War, and which at the late Meeting held with you at Detroit has been decently covered over by your Father Lieut Colonel De Peyster makes it unnecessary for me to add more upon the Subject, than that I hope it has been Sufficient to ease your Minds and prepare your Hearts to receive with — Satisfaction the Tidings of Peace, which is now communicated to us by Brigadr. General Sir John Johnson, whom His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint to preside over all your Affairs. His Speech to the Six Nations is as — "follows" "Altho' the King your Father has found it necessary "for the Happiness and ease of his more Domestic Subjects, "to conclude a long, Bloody, Expensive and Unnatural War, "by a Peace which Seems to give you great Uneasiness on Account of the boundary Line agreed upon between His Majesty

"Majesty's Commissioners and those of the United States: yet you
"are not to believe or even think that by the Line which has been
"ascribed it was meant to deprive you of an extent of Country of
"which the Right of Soil belongs to, and is in yourselves as Sole
"Proprietors as far as the boundary Line agreed upon and established
"in the most Solemn and Public manner in the Presence and with
"the Consent of the Governors and Commissioners deputed by the
"different Colonies for that Purpose by your late Worthy Friend
"Sir William Johnson in the Year 1768 at Fort Stanwix. —
"Neither can I harbour an Idea that the United States will act
"So unjustly, or, impoliticaly as to endeavor to deprive you of
"any Part of your Country under the Pretence of having conquered
"it — The King still considers you his faithfull Allies as his
"Children, and will continue to promote your Happiness by
"his Protection and encouragement of your usual intercourse
"with Trade, and all other Benefits in His Power to afford you.
"Therefore I do in the most earnest Manner recommend to you
"for your own Advantage, to bear your Losses with Manly —
"Fortitude, forgiving and forgeting what is past, looking
"forward in full Hopes and Expectation that on the Return
"of the Blessings of Peace, and Cool and just Reflection, all
"Animosity & enmity will cease, Conciliation Succeed and
"Friendship be renewed, and as a Proof of your Inclination
"to promote that desirable End, I do moreover now recommend
"to you to Collect and give up without Exception, all Prisoners
"that may be yet among you, and as an inducement to comply
"with what I recommend, and as a Proof of His Majesty's
"Bounty and Attention: I have brought up a large Assortment
"of every Thing Necessary to Supply your Wants. And I
"have farther the Satisfaction to acquaint you, that so far
"from your being neglected or Cast off when your Services can
"no longer be wanted (as has been very unjustly imagined &
"reported) The King has ordered out a large Assortment of
"Goods to Supply your further Wants, as well as to afford —
"Relief to all Such among you who by the fortune of War,

"the Loss of Friends, Old Age or Infirmities are rendered
"unable to Support themselves. I must recommend to you
"to be unanimous among yourselves and not to Seperate or
"Scatter about the Country, and thereby Weaken yourselves
"and lessen your Consequence, and to advise your young Men
"to desist from all Acts of Hostilities, otherwise they may
"drawn on themselves the Resentment of the People on the
"Frontiers as had been very Near the Case some Time in
"May, in Consequence of the Shawanese and Delawares
"on the Waters of the Miamis having taken a Number of
"Women & Children as has been represented by the Commissio-
"ners from Fort Pitt. I have only to add, that let my
"Situation be where it will, I shall never loose Sight of your
"Interest. I shall therefore inform you from time to time
"of every Thing that may be of Consequence, or in the least
"interesting to you, expecting at the same time a like friendly
"Confidence on your Part"

A Belt of Eleven Rows.

Children

This Speech is so fully expressive of every Thing that at present concerns your Interests, I have only to add that I earnestly enjoin the several Nations present to a Strict Adherence and Compliance thereto, and I am happy to have it in my Power at this Time to deliver you a Part of the Cloathing mentioned, which I flatter myself will fulfil the Engagements heretofore made to you, and Convince you that your Father's Attention is extended to all his Children, and having finished what I had to say on our Part, I desire your Attention to the Deputies of the Six Nations, who will lay before you the late Councils held at Niagara

& delivered a large String

In Council Sepber 7th

Present as at the 6th

Mr. Wm. Shee finished his Speech of the Sixth, which he was obliged to defer on Account of bad Weather, after which the Deputation from the Six Nations addressed them the several Nations present as follows.

Captain Brant Saluted the Nations present in the Usual Manner and then Says –

Brothers and Nephews, We the Chief Warriors of the Six Nations with this Belt Clear your Ears, that you may listen with Attention and without any Interruption to what We have to say.

delivers a Belt,

Brothers and Nephews. We now Conform to the Ancient Custom of our fore Fathers, to Condole with you for the Losses you have sustained in the War, and we hope your Minds will now be easy from all Trouble Since We have gathered the Bones of all your dear departed Friends and covered them over, so that all is Smooth and even –

delivers a large Belt

Brothers and Nephews.

We Shall now acquaint you with our Motives for taking an early and active Part in the War. At first, it was hard for us to determine which Side to join with, as they were the same People fighting against each other, but upon Mature and deliberate Consideration, we thought it incumbent on us to join the King our Father, for had We pretended to be Neutral, we should have been divided amongst ourselves, for our Young Men would have acted on some Side or other, by which we might have fought against each other and ruin ourselves.

Actuated as We were by our Feelings & reasonings, we could not but adhere to our former Engagements of Fidelity to the King of Great Britain, We therefore resolved to take that Side, and urged you also to do so, altho' the Force of the Americans appeared to be more Powerfull than that of the King, yet it did not deter us from following the Dictates of our Principles, nor were we at the Time that

Peace was announced to us, either tired of the War, or even afraid, for our Preparations for War were as much in readineſs last Winter as ever

23

4 Several Strings

Brothers and Nephews

We Shall now inform you of the Transactions of Councils held at Niagara by Brigadier General Sir John Johnson, this Summer with us. He informed us that the Peace was brought about, and desired us for to remain quiet and Cease Hostilities. We accordingly agreed to lay our Hatchets aside and looked with Watchfull Eye towards our Lands from the Boundary Line which was agreed to, fifteen years ago. And Sir John Johnson aſsured us that the Boundary Line lately agreed to, did not deprive us of our Lands. The War not being of our own making, We readily agreed to what Sir John had recommended to us, altho' We the Six Nations are never hasty in our Resolves when matters of War are concerned, and altho' we have laid the Hatchet a Side, should they give us just Cause to use it, We shall neverthleſs be able to take it up in Defence of our Rights. We mean to take Care that we give no Cause of Rupture on our Parts. Brothers and Nephews, we desire you to pay Attention to this, and do the same Thing that we have resolved to, and do Nothing in a hasty Manner, let every Thing go thro' its proper Channel that we may be of one Mind and act alike.

4 delivers a Belt

6 Brothers and Nephews attend

Sir John Johnson recommended further. That as it was the Custom of the English, as well as ours, at the Conclusion of a Peace to Set the Prisoners at Liberty, he hoped that we would follow the same Rule, to which we immediately complied, for as we declared before, that we would give no Cause of Offence on our Part, and if we take up the Hatchet it would be the Cause of the white People and not ours. We therefore earnestly recommend to you to do the same as we have done, that the Prisoners be Set at Liberty.

" Delivers a Belt

Brothers and Nephews, you the Hurons, Delawares, Shawanese, Mingoes, Ottawas, Chippoweys Poutteawatomies, Creeks & Cherokees. We the Six Nations with this Belt bind your Hearts and Minds with ours, that there may be never hereafter a Seperation between us, let there be Peace or War, it shall never disunite us, for our Interests are alike, nor should any Thing ever be done but by the Voice of the whole, as we make but one with you.

" Delivers a large Belt,

Sindatton then Speaks on Several mixed Strings.

Father

We return you and the Six Nations our hearty Thanks for the good Speeches you have given us

Father!

At the Time you assembled us at Detroit and took us by the Hand to accompany you to this Place, we did not understand that it would be any Part of your Business to Collect our Prisoners. We are deceived in that for we understood when the Hatchet was put into our Hands, that whatever was taken from the Enemy should remain with us in order to Strengthen our Nation, therefore I will not assist you in that Part.

" Several Strings

Mr. McKee says

I am rather Surprized that you pretend Ignorance of the Business we come upon, when I had a Meeting with you before I left Detroit on the Arrival of the Deputies from the Six Nations. I told you they came to promote the General Good, and that I thought it necessary for some

Chiefs to accompany me and their Elder Brethren to this Side of the Lake; in order to inform the Several Nations who are Situated near the Americans, of the Particulars we have received of the Peace, that they may take care not to put themselves in the Way of bringing Mischief upon themselves. What has now passed this Day before this Assembly is meant for your good Only, if you duly attend thereto, and as to the giving up of Prisoners, it has been ever a Custom both with you and the white People, at the Conclusion of a Peace to give them up. Therefore as that is now the Case you can no longer consider yourselves deceived.

" Delivers Several Strings.

Tsindatton then Sayd

Father and Brethren of the Six Nations — listen to me

You know very well when you arrived at Detroit where our Council Fire is, I then desired to know the Business you came upon, but you did not tell me, then my Father took me by the Hand to assist him on his Business. Now that I have heard your several Speeches with that of my Father, I am pleased, as they are all Good, and I am Convinced that what you have sayd will give General Satisfaction. I beg of you the Six Nathions — to adhere to all you have sayd, and never deviate therefrom, but Continue in the same Mind

" Delivers a Belt

Tsindatton then addressed the Several Nations present in 2 white Belts, in behalf of the Lake Indians.

Younger Brothers listen to me

Now I assist my Father and our Elder Brethren the Six Nations. Our Tomahawks are now laid Close to our Sides but there are yet many of our young Men who have their Eyes fixed upon it, and they might Steal it from our Sides to make Use of it unknown to us, therefore I throw rubbish over it that they may not find it, and I desire you to attend well to what was sayd this Day

} delivers 2 Belts

Rynech in behalf of the Shawanees

We have listened with Attention, and We agree to what has been sayd. As soon as we get Home we shall endeavour to comply with what our Elder Brethren the Six Nations have recommended to us.

Deyonquat the half King, Speaks on all the Speeches

Father.

I hold in my Hands your Speeches with that of our Elder Brethren the Six Nations. As they require the Serious Consideration of all the Nations who reside in this Country, we shall hold a Meeting among ourselves and let you know our Answer thereon to morrow.

In Council September 8th 1788

Present as at the 7th

Deyonquat the half King Speaks on a Belt in behalf of the Delawares

Father!

This Day the Great Spirit has permitted us to Speak to you in the presence of our Elder Brethren the Six Nations. It has pleased you to kindle the Council fire at this Place, at which you have desired me to deliver up all the Flesh and Blood we had taken from the Virginians during the War. Our Nephews the Delawares Spoke first and agreed with what you desired, and delivered up five Prisoners which they brought with them at this Time. They leave all that are yet among them at Liberty to go when they please, or to remain with them, as they consider them as their flesh and Blood

} A White Belt,

He then! Speaks on Strings for himself and the Several Nations in this Country

Father!

We request of you to listen as also our Elder Brethren, the Six Nations. At this Council Fire you desired us to give up the Virginian Flesh and Blood. We have accordingly been among those of our People, and after enquiring We find that they are Contented to return Home, but wish to go the Way they came from. You the Six Nations told us that you had permitted all your Prisoners to be at Liberty, and recom̄ended to us to do so also, which we agree to. They are all at Liberty and may return Home as soon as Matters are properly settled, that they may get there in Safety.

" delivers Several Strings

He then Speaks in behalf of the Indians in General

Father! Listen! as also our Brethren the Six Nations. You have told us there is Peace. You know the Rights of us Indians in this Country, and you also know that the Tomahawk is now laid down. Brethren the Six Nations you know where the Boundary Line was fixed, since you were the People who fixed it. We now inform you that the Virginians are already encroaching upon our Lands, and We desire you and our Father to be Strong, and desire them to desist from encroaching upon us, otherwise they will destroy the Good Work of Peace which we are endeavouring to promote, this is all that we have to say

" Delivers Strings

Mr. McKee then says

Children

I return you my hearty Thanks for your readiness in Complying with the Requisition made by your Father, and I am rejoiced to see you so unanimous in doing Right. It fulfills the good End of my Meeting you at this Place which is to promote your happiness and Welfare. And I am well pleased to find you all so Strong in this good Work, and that a Single breath which rashly blows, can have no Effect in turning you a-Side from the Strait Path laid before you by your Father and Elder Brethren the Six Nations, who in the most Solemn Manner Yesterday renewed the union of your Hearts and Interests, to enable you to Speak and act like one Man. — Whilst you Continue to do this, there can be no doubt but you will prosper in your endeavours to live happy.

Captn. Brant then Spoke in behalf of the Six Nations

Brothers & Nephews!

I return you our Thanks for your Speedy Compliance to what has been required of you in this Council. As you desire Us to be Strong who are acquainted with the Boundary Line of the Virginians.

Brethren and Nephews we are determined to be so, and to represent the Encroachment of the Virginians into our Country as soon as we return Home, and as we are now to act like one Man, We take a few of your Chiefs by the Hand, and lead you to our Council fire, where you may be able to aſsist us in what you are so desirous should be done.

" Delivers a Belt —

Copy from the Minutes
(Signed) J Schieffling Secy.

Copy. No. 2. 1783

Transactions with
Indians at Sandusky
from 26th. August to
8th. September —

In Govr. Haldimand's
(No. 16) of 14 Octr. 1783.

That the ~~commissioners~~ Secretary at War be instructed to obtain Information & lay before Congress estimates of the cloathing and other articles requisite for the proposed negotiation, & that ~~the Secretary~~ he ~~at war~~ appoint a suitable person to receive those articles & direct him to deliver them to the orders of the commissioners, & ~~him~~ to produce said orders with attested receipts as vouchers in the adjustment of his accounts at the treasury office.

That the Secretary of War be directed to report what Sum, in goods, it would be proper to ~~[illegible]~~ direct the Commiſsioners at the proposed treaty with the Indians, to giving as a compensation for the ceſsion of territory "which Congreſs have directed to be negociated for with the Indians"

That the Superintendt. of Finance be directed to furnish such a quantity of coarse goods part of those belonging to the U.S as ~~shall be judged~~ in concurrence of the Secretary at war may be deemed neceſsary at the opening the proposed treaty not exceeding   dollars in Value: And that the Commiſsioners lay before Congreſs estimates of the further quantities of Cloathing & other Articles which in sd. Treaty they may find ~~neceſsary~~ requisite for carrying the same into execution not exceeding   Dollars to the end Congreſs may make neceſsary provision for supplying the same —

Motions
with the article 9th in
the first report on Indian.
Affairs referred to
Oct 15. 1783 to Mr Duane
Mr Peters
Mr Carroll
Mr Hawkins
Mr Lee

Ayer
b251
I613
U58
1783

The [illegible] States in Congress Assembled

October 15. 1783.

THE committee, conſiſting [illegible] Mr. D[illegible]ane, M[illegible] Peters, Mr Carrol, M[illegible] Ha[illegible] Mr. Lee, to whom were referred a [illegible] Indian affairs, read in Congreſs on the [illegible] April laſt; a letter from general Schuyler, one of [illegible]ommiſſioners of Indian affairs for the northern [illegible]ated the 11th of Auguſt laſt, with meſſages to and f[illegible]ertain hoſtile Indians on the ſubject of peace; a le[illegible]ated the ſame day, from Ebenezer Allen, employe[illegible]aſſiſt Mr Bull, a meſſenger ſent by the board of war [illegible]er of Congreſs, to announce the ceſſatio[illegible] hoſti[illegible] the Indians in the weſtern country; a [illegible]fro[illegible]ard of war, dated the 19th of Auguſt [illegible]accomp[illegible]a narrative of Ephraim Douglaſs, an o[illegible]meſſe[illegible]he Indian tribes, with ſundry encloſures; a letter [illegible] commander in chief, with inſtructions accompa[illegible]e ſame; extract of a letter to the commander in [illegible]om general Haldiman, commanding for his Brit[illegible]ajeſty in Canada, dated the 17th of Auguſt; a le[illegible] the commander in chief, dated the 26th of A[illegible]nd its encloſures, and a letter from brigadier gen[illegible]rwine, dated the 3d of September inſtant; ſubmit[illegible] following detail of facts and reſolutions:—

That your committee have a[illegible]vely conſidered the ſeveral papers referred to them, [illegible]e conferred thereon with the commander in chi[illegible]

That this report will be confine[illegible]dian affairs in the northern and middle departments [illegible]ey are defined by the act of Congreſs of the 12th [illegible]y of July, 1775, and to the ſettlement of the weſtern country; theſe ſubjects, in the opinion of your committee, being inſeperably connected; and your committee not being poſſeſſed of materials which enable them to extend their views to the ſouthern diſtrict. That it is repreſented, and your committee believe with truth, that although the hoſtile tribes of Indian in the northern and weſtern departments are ſeriouſly diſpoſed to a pacification; yet they are not in a temper to relinquiſh their territorial claims without further ſtruggles.

That if an Indian war ſhould be re-kindled, repeated victories might produce the retreat of the Indians, but could not prevent them from regaining poſſeſſion of ſome part of the diſtant and extenſive territories which appertain to the United States: that while ſuch temporary expulſions could only be effected at a great charge, they could not be improved to the ſmalleſt advantage, but by maintaining numerous garriſons and an expenſive peace-eſtabliſhment. That even if all the northern and weſtern tribes of Indians inhabiting the territories of the United States, could be totally expelled, the policy of reducing them to ſuch an extremity is deemed to be queſtionable; for in ſuch an event, it is obvious that they would find a welcome reception from the Britiſh government in Canada, which by ſo great an acceſſion of ſtrength would become formidable in caſe of any future rupture; and in that when they ſhall be informed o[illegible] eſtimates of the damages which our citizens have ſuſtained by their eruptions, and of the expences which the United States have incurred to check their career, it will have a tendency to ſuppreſs any extravagant demands. Whereupon Resolved,

~~Your committee from theſe conſiderations propoſe~~ that a convention ſhall be held with the Indians reſiding in the northern ~~diſtrict~~ and ~~the weſtern diſtrict~~ middle department who have taken up arms againſt the United States, for the purpoſes of receiving them into the favour and protection of the United States, and of eſtabliſhing boundary lines of property for ſeperating and dividing the ſettlements of the citizens from the Indian villages and hunting grounds, and thereby extinguiſhing as far as poſſible, all occaſion for future animoſities, diſquiet and contentions; and that,

Firſt, And as a preliminary, it ſhall be required that all priſoners of whatever age or ſex among theſe Indians ſhall be delivered up.

Secondly, That the Indians be informed, that after a conteſt of eight years for the ſovereignty of this country, Great Britain has ~~ceded~~ relinquished all the lands to the United States within the limits deſcribed by the second article of the proviſional treaty, to wit. (See Treaty) —

Thirdly, That as the Indians, notwithſtanding a ſolemn treaty of neutrality with Congreſs, at the commencement of the war.—Notwithſtanding all the advice and admonition which could be given them during its proſecution, could not be reſtrained from acts of hoſtility and wanton devaſtation, but were determined to join their arms to thoſe of Great Britain and to ſhare their fortunes, ſo conſequently, with a leſs generous people than Americans, they ~~would~~ might be made to ſhare the ſame fate and be compelled to retire ~~with them~~ beyond the Lakes. But as we prefer clemency to rigor, as we perſuade ourſelves that their eyes are open to their error, and that they have found by fatal experience, that their true intereſt and ſafety muſt depend upon our friendſhip, as the country is large enough to contain and ſupport us all, and as we are diſpoſed to be kind to them, to ſupply their wants, and to partake of their trade; we from theſe conſiderations, and from motives of compaſſion, draw a veil over what is paſſed; and will eſtabliſh a boundary line between them and us, beyond which we will endeavour to reſtrain our citizens from hunting and ſettling; and within which they ſhall not come but for the purpoſes of trading, treating or other buſineſs equally unexceptionable.

Fourthly, That the following ~~line or~~ lines ſhall be mutually agreed upon and eſtabliſhed between the United States and the ſeveral tribes of Indians who ſhall be affected thereby, or lines as nearly correſpondent thereto as the Indians can be prevailed upon to adopt and approve of, that is to ſay, Beginning at the Mouth of the [illegible]

~~*Fifthly*, That the commiſſioners for the northern and~~ middle ~~weſtern~~ diſtricts ~~ſhall be inſ[illegible] to unite together in~~

victories might produce the retreat of the Indians, but could not prevent them from regaining poſſeſſion of ſome part of the diſtant and extenſive territories which appertain to the United States: that while ſuch temporary expulſions could only be effected at a great charge, they could not be improved to the ſmalleſt advantage, but by maintaining numerous garriſons and an expenſive peace-eſtabliſhment. That even if all the northern and weſtern tribes of Indians inhabiting the territories of the United States, could be totally expelled, the policy of reducing them to ſuch an extremity is deemed to be queſtionable; for in ſuch an event, it is obvious that they would find a welcome reception from the Britiſh government in Canada, which by ſo great an acceſſion of ſtrength would become formidable in caſe of any future rupture: and in peace, by keeping alive the reſentment of the Indians for the loſs of their country, would ſecure to its own ſubjects the entire benefit of the fur-trade.

That although motives of policy, as well as clemency, ought to incline Congreſs to liſten to the prayers of the hoſtile Indians for peace, yet in the opinion of your committee it is juſt and neceſſary that lines of property ſhould be aſcertained and eſtabliſhed between the United States and them, which will be convenient to the reſpective tribes, and commenſurate to the public wants: becauſe the faith of the United States ſtands pledged to grant portions of the waſte and uncultivated lands as a bounty to their army, and in reward of their courage and fidelity: and the public finances do not admit of any conſiderable expenditure to extinguiſh the Indian claims upon ſuch lands: becauſe it is become neceſſary, by the encreaſe of domeſtic population, and emigrations from abroad, to make ſpeedy proviſion for extending the ſettlement of the territories of the United States; and becauſe the public creditors have been led to believe, and have a right to expect, that thoſe territories will be ſpeedily improved into a fund towards the ſecurity and payment of the national debt.

Nor in the opinion of your committee can the Indians themſelves have any reaſonable objection againſt the eſtabliſhment recommended. They were, as ſome of them acknowledge, aggreſſors in the war, without even a pretence of provocation, they violated the convention of neutrality made with Congreſs at Albany, in 1775; and in return for profered protection and liberal ſupplies; and to the utter ruin and impoveriſhment of thouſands of families, they wantonly deſolated our villages and ſettlements, and deſtroyed our citizens.

To ſtop the progreſs of their outrages, the war, at a vaſt expence to the United States, was carried into their own country, which they abandoned ~~in diſmay~~. Waving then the right of conqueſt, and the various precedents which might be quoted in ſimilar inſtances, a bare recollection of the facts is ſufficient to manifeſt the obligation they are under to make atonement for the enormities which they have perpetrated, and a reaſonable compenſation for the expences which the United States have incurred by their wanton barbarity; and they poſſeſs no other means to do this act of juſtice than by a compliance with the propoſed boundaries.

The ~~Your~~ committee are of opinion, that in the negociation which they ~~ſhall~~ recommend, care ought to be taken neither to yield nor require too much, to accommodate the Indians as far as the public good will admit; and if they ſhould appear to be diſſatisfied at the lines which it may be found neceſſary to eſtabliſh, rather to give them ſome compenſation for their claims, than to hazard a war which will be much more expenſive: but it is ſuppoſed conſiderations, and from motives of compaſſion, draw a veil over what is paſſed; and will eſtabliſh a boundary line between them and us, beyond which we will endeavour to reſtrain our citizens from hunting and ſettling; and within which they ſhall not come but for the purpoſes of trading, treating or other buſineſs equally unexceptionable.

Fourthly, That the following ~~line or~~ lines ſhall be mutually agreed upon and eſtabliſhed between the United States and the ſeveral tribes of Indians who ſhall be affected thereby, or lines as nearly correſpondent thereto as the Indians can be prevailed upon to adopt and approve of, that is to ſay,

Beginning at the Mouth of the Great Miami ~~[illegible]~~ which empties into the Ohio, thence along the said river Miami to its confluence with the Mad river — thence by a direct line to the Miami Fort at the village of that name on the other Miami river which empties into Lake Erie thence along the last mentioned river to Lake Erie comprehending all the lands between the above mentioned lines & the State of Pennsa. on the East & Lake Erie on the North & the Ohio on the S.E. —

A resolve follows for preventing any confirmation of Gifts of Lands to Individuals, from being inserted, or any way touched upon, in the Treaty

Fifthly, That the commiſſioners for the northern and ~~weſtern~~ middle diſtricts ~~ſhall be inſtructed to~~ unite together in holding one convention with the Indians inhabiting the diſtricts aforeſaid, and their allies and dependents for the purpoſes aforeſaid: and only ~~to~~ yield to ſeperate conventions in caſe of inevitable neceſſity.

Sixthly, And whereas the Oneida and Tuſcarora tribes have adhered to the cauſe of America, and joined her arms in the courſe of the late war; and Congreſs have frequently aſſured them of peculiar marks of favour and friendſhip; the ſaid commiſſioners are therefore inſtructed to take particular care to diſtinguiſh the lands claimed as the inheritance of thoſe tribes, to have them aſcertained, and enter into ſtipulations, that they ſhall be reſerved for the ſole uſe and benefit of thoſe tribes until they ſhall think it for their own advantage to diſpoſe of the ſame: Provided, that if thoſe tribes ſhall voluntarily agree to exchange their preſent claims for a diſtrict more remote from the ſettlements of our citizens, and ſuch exchange ſhall not be deemed diſadvantageous by the ſtate claiming the juriſdiction, it ſhall be lawful for the commiſſioners to ratify ſuch exchange for the better ſecurity of the ſaid Indians:

Seventhly, And whereas the legiſlature of the ſtate of New-York have granted lands at Onondaga and Cayuga to certain officers and privates in the ſervice of the United States, not only as bounties for recruiting and inliſting: but to appeaſe the diſcontents which prevailed for want of their pay, and as a reward for their meritorious ſervices: the ſaid commiſſioners are therefore further inſtructed to take care as far as will be conſiſtent with th
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×8thly That the Comrs. be & they are hereby instructed not to admit into a Treaty with the sd Indians or suffer to be in any manner connected with it any Article Stipulation or Condition whatsoever making or Confirming or tending to make or Confirm to any Individual or Individuals any Grant or Grants of Land, whether Real or pretended within the Bounds of the U.S. as before described —

7thly That the ſaid commiſſioners ~~of the northern and middle diſtricts~~ be inſtructed to obtain a particular account of the French inhabitants at Detroit, Illinois, and other villages within the territories of the United States; and that they give aſſurances, in the name of the United States, to thoſe inhabitants, who shall profess allegiance &c. that they ſhall be protected in the full enjoyment of their liberty and property.

9th That the ſaid commiſſioners be alſo inſtructed to obtain information of the numbers and places of reſidence of the citizens of the United States who have ſeated themſelves on the northweſt ſide of the Ohio; to ſignify to them the diſpleaſure of Congreſs that they have taken this ſtep with which the public intereſt and repoſe are ſo intimately connected, without permiſſion or authority; to caution them to abſtain from acts of violence or injuſtice towards the Indians, and to live peaceably among themſelves until a plan ſhall be inſtituted, under the authority of the United States, for granting, ſettling and governing that country. That the ſaid commiſſioners ~~alſo~~ inſtructed, to diſcourage, to the utmoſt of their power, all ~~further~~ intruſions into any of the territories of the United States within their reſpective departments; ~~and~~

Sir   Cataraqui the 15th Sepr 1783   49

[illegible] Brant arrived here yesterday and will proceed [illegible] to Quebec to make a report of his Excursion. The Party that attended him [illegible] not yet returned [illegible]

We have no [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible]

When the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as soon as possible.

I have the Honour [illegible]

[illegible]

On the question, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry's amendment was agreed to.

The Committee [Mr. Richard Peters, Mr. James McHenry, and Mr. Theodorick Bland] to whom was referred the report of the Secretary at War and the papers accompanying the same relating to the Invalid Regiment report,

That it be recommended to the Legislatures of the respective States to take such measures in addition to those already taken or recommended and not exceeding in any case whole pay for life for the comfortable subsistence and support of such of the officers and soldiers of their respective lines as have been disabled in the service during the late War, as to those shall seem most adequate to their wants and circumstances; having regard to any examinations which have been or may be made by directions of the Commander in Chief or Secretary at War into the disabilities and situation of the said officers and soldiers respectively.[1]

War Office *Princeton 12 Octo. 1783.*

Sir,

On General Armand's letter referred to me by Congress I can only observe, that his request for the promotion of a number of officers of his corps is not founded on any particular claim those officers have to promotion which exceeds the claim of many others—but that a door has been opened to it by the promotion of many foreign officers who were leaving our service and are returning to Europe.

The same motives which induced the promotion of Captains Second and Depontiere, and Lieut. Beaulieu, will operate in favor of the gentlemen recommended by General Armand.[2]

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1783

The committee, consisting of Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Richard] Peters, Mr. [Daniel] Carroll, Mr. [Benjamin] Hawkins and Mr. A[rthur] Lee, to whom were referred sundry letters and papers relative to Indian affairs, report,

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[1] This report, in the writing of Richard Peters, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 22, folio 243. The indorsement states that it was delivered this day, entered and read.

[2] This report is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 149, III, folio 245. The indorsement states that it was delivered on this day, and refers to action taken February 6, 1784. The entry in Committee Book No. 191 states that the matter was acted upon, October 29, 1783.

The Committee consisting of Mr [James] Duane, Mr [Richard] Peters, Mr [Daniel] Carroll, Mr [Benjamin] Hawkins, and Mr A[rthur] Lee, to whom were referred a Report on Indian affairs, read in Congress on the 21st of April last, a letter from General Schuyler, one of the Commissioners of Indian affairs for the northern district, dated the 11th of August last, with messages to and from certain hostile Indians on the subject of peace; a letter dated the same day from Ebenezer Allen, employed to assist Mr Bull, a messenger sent by the Board of War, by order of Congress, to announce the cessation of hostilities to the Indians in the western country; a report from the Board of War dated the 19th of August, accompanying a narrative of Ephraim Douglass, another messenger to the Indian tribes, with sundry enclosures; a letter from the Commander in Chief, with instructions accompanying the same; extract of a letter to the Commander in Chief from General Haldimand, commanding for His Britannick Majesty in Canada, dated the 17th of August; a letter from the Commander in Chief dated the 26th of August, and its enclosures; and a letter from Brigadier General Irwine, dated the 3d of September instant; submit the following detail of facts and resolutions:

That they have attentively considered the several papers referred to them, and have conferred thereon with the Commander in Chief. That their report will be confined to Indian affairs in the northern and middle departments, as they are defined by the acts of Congress of the 12 of July, 1775, and to the settlement of the western country, these subjects being in the opinion of the committee inseparably connected, and the committee not being possessed of materials which enable them to extend their views to the southern district. That it is represented, and the committee believe with truth, that although the hostile tribes of Indians in the ~~western districts~~ northern and middle departments,[1] are seriously disposed to a pacification, yet they are not in a temper to relinquish their territorial claims, without further struggles. That if an Indian war should be rekindled, repeated victories might produce the retreat of the Indians, but could not prevent them from regaining possession of some part of the distant and extensive territories, which appertain to the United States; that while such temporary expulsions could only be effected at a great charge, they could not be improved to the smallest advantage, but by maintaining numerous garrisons and an expensive peace establishment; that even if all the northern and western tribes of Indians inhabiting the territories of the United States could be totally expelled, the policy of reducing them to such an extremity is deemed to be questionable; for in such an event it is obvious that they would find a welcome reception from the British government in Canada, which by so great an accession of strength would become formidable in case of any future rupture, and in peace, by keeping alive the resentment of the Indians for the loss of their country, would secure to its own subjects the entire benefit of the fur trade. That although motives of policy as well as clemency ought to incline Congress to listen to the prayers of the hostile Indians for peace, yet in the opinion of the committee it is just and necessary that lines of property should be ascertained and established between the United States and them, which will be convenient to the respective tribes, and commensurate to the public wants, because the faith of the United States stands pledged to grant portions of the ~~waste and~~ uncultivated lands as a bounty to their army, and in reward of their courage and fidelity, and the public finances do not admit of any considerable expenditure to extinguish the Indian claims upon such lands;

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[1] The committee report however, says "northern and western departments."

~~because some of the states have already assigned to the officers and privates of their respective lines lands claimed to be within their jurisdictions and from which the Indians have been expelled during the course of the war, and which unless some agreement is seasonably made under the authority of Congress may excite fresh discontent and hostilities~~

because it is become necessary, by the increase of domestic population and emigrations from abroad, to make speedy provision for extending the settlement of the territories of the United States; and because the public creditors have been led to believe and have a right to expect that those territories will be speedily improved into a fund towards the security and payment of the national debt. Nor in the opinion of the committee can the Indians themselves have any reasonable objections against the establishment recommended. They were, as some of them acknowledge, aggressors in the war, without even a pretence of provocation; they violated the convention of neutrality made with Congress at Albany, in 1775, and in return for proffered protection, and liberal supplies, and to the utter ruin and impoverishment of thousands of families, they wantonly desolated our villages and settlements, and destroyed our citizens. To stop the progress of their outrages, the war, at a vast expence to the United States, was carried into their own country, which they abandoned ~~in dismay~~. Waiving then the right of conquest and the various precedents which might be quoted in similar instances, a bare recollection of the facts is sufficient to manifest the obligation they are under to make atonement for the enormities which they have perpetrated, and a reasonable compensation for the expences which the United States have incurred by their wanton barbarity; and they possess no other means to do this act of justice than by a compliance with the proposed boundaries. The committee are of opinion, that in the negotiation which they recommend, care ought to be taken neither to yield nor require too much; to accommodate the Indians as far as the public good will admit, and if they should appear dissatisfied at the lines which it may be found necessary to establish, rather to give them some compensation for their claims than to hazard a war, which will be much more expensive; but it is supposed that when they shall be informed of the estimates of the damages which our citizens have sustained by their irruptions, and of the expences which the United States have incurred to check their career, it will have a tendency to suppress any extravagant demands. Whereupon, *Resolved,* That a convention be held with the Indians residing in the northern ~~district and the western district~~ and middle departments, who have taken up arms against the United States, for the purposes of receiving them into the favor and protection of the United States, and of establishing boundary lines of property for separating and dividing the settlements of the citizens from the Indian villages and hunting grounds, and thereby extinguishing as far as possible all occasion for future animosities, disquiet and contention.[1]

That first and as a preliminary it shall be required that all prisoners of whatever age or sex among these Indians shall be delivered up.

Secondly, That the Indians be informed that after a contest of eight years for the sovereignty of this country Great Britain has ~~ceded all the lands~~ relinquished to the United States all claim to the country within the limits described by the second article of the provisional treaty between the United States and the King of Great Britain, on the thirtieth day of November in the year 1782; that is to say, From the northwest angle of Nova Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the said Highlands which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river Saint Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the northwesternmost head of Connecticut river, thence down along the middle of that river to the 45 degree of north latitude, from thence by a line due west on said latitude until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cataraqui; thence along the middle of said river into lake Ontario, through the middle of said lake until it strikes the communication by water between that lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of said communication into lake Erie, through the middle of said lake until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and lake Huron, thence along the middle of said water communication into lake Huron; thence through the middle of the said lake to the water communication between that lake and lake Superior, thence through lake Superior northward of the isles Royal and Philipeaux to the long lake, thence through the middle of said Long lake and the water communication between it and the lake of the Woods to the said lake of the Woods, thence through the said lake to the most northwestern point thereof and from thence on a due west course to the river Mississippi, thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude. South by a line to be drawn due east from the determination of the line last mentioned in the latitude of thirty-one degrees north of the Equator to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catahouche; thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint river; thence straight to the head of St. Mary's river and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's river to the Atlantic ocean. East by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix from its mouth in the bay of Fundy to its source and from its source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean from those which fall into the river St. Lawrence; comprehending all islands within 20 leagues of any part of the shores of the United States and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforesaid boundaries between Nova Scotia on the one part and East Florida on the other shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean excepting such islands as now are or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia.

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[1] The resolutions, following this, from "First" to "Ninthly," inclusive, were also entered in the manuscript Secret (Domestic) Journal.

Thirdly, That as the Indians notwithstanding a solemn treaty of neutrality with Congress at the commencement of the war; notwithstanding all the advice and admonition ~~which could be~~ given them during its prosecution, could not be restrained from acts of hostility and wanton devastation, but were determined to join their arms to those of Great Britain and to share their fortunes, so consequently with a less generous people than Americans they ~~would be made to share the same fate and be~~ might be compelled to retire ~~with them~~ beyond the lakes; but as we prefer clemency to rigor, as we persuade ourselves that their eyes are open to their error and that they have found by fatal experience that their true interest and safety must depend upon our friendship; as the country is large enough to contain and support us all, and as we are disposed to be kind to them, to supply their wants and to partake of their trade, we from these considerations and from motives of compassion draw a veil over what is passed and will establish a boundary line between them and us, beyond which we will ~~endeavor to~~ restrain our citizens from hunting and settling, and within which ~~they~~ the Indians shall not come but for the purposes of trading, treating or other business equally unexceptionable.

Fourthly, That the following ~~line or~~ lines shall be proposed to be mutually agreed upon and established between the United States and the several tribes of Indians who shall be affected thereby; ~~or lines as nearly correspondent thereto as the Indians can be prevailed upon to adopt and approve of; that is to say,~~

[Beginning at the mouth of the great Miami River, which empties into the Ohio, thence along the said river Miami to its confluence with the Mad river; thence by a direct line to the Miami fort at the village of that name on the other Miami river which empties into lake Erie; thence along the last mentioned river to lake Erie, comprehending all the lands between the above mentioned lines and the State of Pensylvania on the East, Lake Erie on the North and the River Ohio on the South East.

~~That if the Indians shall object against the lines above described, the said commissioners shall receive and report to Congress the~~

~~proposition for a settlement of boundary to be made on their part, that the Sense and farther direction of the United States in Congress assembled may be had thereon.]~~

Fifthly, That the commissioners for the northern and [middle departments,[1] or such other persons as may be appointed by Congress], unite together in holding one convention with the Indians inhabiting the districts aforesaid and their allies and dependants for the purposes aforesaid, and only yield to seperate conventions in case of inevitable necessity.

Sixthly, And whereas the Oneida and Tuscarora tribes have adhered to the cause of America and joined her arms in the course of the late war, and Congress have frequently assured them of peculiar marks of favour and friendship, the said commissioners are therefore instructed

~~to take particular care to distinguish the lands claimed as the inheritance of those tribes, to have them ascertained and enter into stipulations that they shall be reserved for the sole use and benefit of those tribes until they shall think it for their own advantage to dispose of the same,~~

[to reassure the said tribes of the friendship of the United States and that they may rely that the lands which they claim as their inheritance will be reserved for their sole use and benefit until they may think it for their own advantage to dispose of the same.][2]

~~Provided that if those tribes shall voluntarily agree to exchange their present claims for a district more remote from the settlements of our citizens, and such exchange shall not be deemed disadvantageous by the State claiming the jurisdiction it shall be lawful for the Commissioners to ratify such exchange for the better security of the said Indians.~~

~~Seventhly, And whereas the Legislature of the State of New York have granted lands in Onondaga and Cayuga to certain officers and privates in the service of the United States not only as bounties for~~

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[1] The committee report, however, says "northern and western districts."

[2] A fair copy of the report to this point, as adopted, together with Articles Seventhly, Eighthly and Ninthly, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folios 229–237.

~~recruiting and enlisting, but to appease the discontents which prevailed for want of their pay and as a reward for their meritorious services, the said Commissioners are therefore further instructed to take care as far as will be consistent with the publick peace that in the establishment of the proposed lines the said military grants be not prejudiced or impeached; but if it shall appear that the persisting in such grants and appropriations may so far irritate the Indians as to expose these United States to the dangers and calamities of an Indian war; that then it will be proper for the Commissioners to report the difficulties which shall so occur in their negociation to the Legislature of the State of New York, and in such case it is earnestly recommended to the Legislature of the State of New York to revise the laws by which such appropriations have been made, so as to prevent the calamities of a new rupture with the Indians.~~

Eighthly, That the Superintendant of finance be directed to furnish such quantity of coarse goods, part of those belonging to the United States, as shall be necessary ~~as presents to the Indians~~ at the proposed negociation; and that the Commissioners lay before Congress estimates of the quantities of cloathing and other articles which will be requisite for the purposes aforesaid to the end that Congress may give the necessary orders for the delivery of such articles as are on hand, and for providing such as may not be in the publick magazines.[1]

Recommitted.

That the ~~Commissioners~~ Secretary at War be instructed to obtain information and lay before Congress Estimates of the clothing and other articles required for the proposed negotiation, and that he appoint a suitable person to receive those articles and direct him to deliver them to the orders of the Commissioners, and to produce said orders with attested receipts as vouchers in the adjustment of his accounts at the Treasury Office.

That the Secretary at War be directed to report what sum in goods, it would be proper to ~~limit~~ direct the Commissioners at the proposed treaty with the Indians, to give as a compensation for the cession of territory which Congress have directed to be negociated for with the Indians.

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[1] This report, in the writing of James Duane, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folios 35–43. It was first read September 19, and printed. The printed copy was considered in Congress, and is in No. 30, folio 193. The amendments made thereon, which are printed within brackets in this text, are in the writing of Elias Boudinot.

That the Superintendent of Finance be directed to furnish such a quantity of coarse goods part of those belonging to the U. S. as in concurrence of the Secretary at War may be deemed necessary at the opening of the proposed treaty, not exceeding dollars in value: And that the Commissioners lay before Congress Estimates of the further quantities of clothing and other articles which in said treaty they may find requisite for carrying the same into execution not exceeding Dollars, to the end Congress may make necessary provision for supplying the same.[1]

The Committee consisting of M^r^ [James] Duane, M^r^ [Richard] Peters, M^r^ [Daniel] Carroll, M^r^ [Benjamin] Hawkins, and M^r^ A[rthur] Lee to whom were referred a Report on Indian affairs and the several other papers enumerated in the report which the said Committee presented to Congress on [the 19th September] last, having further considered of the matters referred to them beg leave to subjoin the following additional instructions and propositions to their said former report.

That the said Commissioners of the northern and middle Districts be instructed to obtain a particular account of the French inhabitants at Detroit, Illinois, and other villages within the territories of the United States, and that they give assurances, in the name of the United States, to those inhabitants that they shall be protected in the full enjoyment of their liberty and property.

That the said Commissioners be also instructed to obtain information of the numbers and places of residence of the citizens of the United States who have seated themselves on the north west side of the Ohio; to signify to them the displeasure of Congress that they have taken this step, with which the publick interest and repose are so intimately connected, without permission or authority; ~~to caution them to abstain from acts of violence or injustice towards the Indians and to live peaceably among themselves; untill a plan shall be instituted, under the authority of the United States, for granting settling and governing that country. That the said Commissioners be also instructed~~ to discourage to the utmost of their power, all ~~further~~ intrusions into any of the territories of the United States within their respective Departments, ~~and your committee are of opinion that to strengthen their hands in this respect, a proclamation inhibiting such intrusions ought to be issued by the United States in Congress assembled without delay.~~

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[1] These three motions, the first and second in the writing of Arthur Lee, and the third in that of Abraham Clark, are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folios 187, 189 and 191. They are undated, but the indorsement and the record in Committee Book No. 186 show that they were committed this day, "with the article 8^ly^ in the first report on Indian affairs," to Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Richard] Peters, Mr. [Daniel] Carroll, Mr. [Benjamin] Hawkins and Mr. [Arthur] Lee, who delivered a report October 24.

Your Committee beg leave further to report that, in their opinion, the trade with the Indians ought to be regulated, and security be given by the Traders for the punctual observance of such regulations, so that violence, fraud and injustice towards the Indians may ~~as far as possible~~ be guarded against and prevented, and the honour of the federal government, and the publick tranquility, be thereby promoted. And that for these purposes ~~and for Indian affairs in general, the standing~~ a Committee ~~of Congress on Indian affairs should be revived~~ be appointed with instructions to prepare and report ~~to Congress~~ an ordinance for regulating the Indian trade, with a clause strictly prohibiting all civil and military officers and particularly all Commissioners and Agents for Indian affairs, from trading with the Indians or purchasing or being directly or indirectly concerned in purchasing lands from the Indians, except only by the express license and authority of the United States in Congress assembled.

And lastly your Committee beg leave to observe that they do not offer the measures which they have suggested as a sufficient security against the increase of feeble, disorderly and dispersed settlements in those remote and wide extended Territories: against the depravity of manners which they have a tendency to produce; the endless perplexities in which they must involve the administration of the affairs of the United States, or against the calamities of frequent and destructive wars with the Indians which reciprocal animosities unrestrained by the interposition of legal authority must naturally excite. Nothing in the opinion of your committee can avert those complicated and impending mischiefs, or secure to the United States the just and important advantages which they ought to derive from those Territories, but the speedy establishment of Government and the regular administration of justice in such District thereof as shall be judged most convenient for immediate settlement and cultivation.

~~Your committee therefore submit it to consideration whether it is not wise and necessary that a Committee be appointed to report to Congress on the expediency of laying out a suitable District within the said Territory, and of erecting it into a distinct government for the accommodation of such as may incline to become purchasers and inhabitants, as well as for doing justice to the army of the United States who are entitled to lands as a Bounty or in reward~~

~~for their services, with instructions to such committee to devise a plan for the temporary government of the inhabitants and the due administration of justice; until their number and circumstances shall entitle them to a place among the States in the Union; when they shall be at liberty to form a free constitution for themselves not incompatible with the republican principles which are the Basis of the constitutions of the respective States in the union. But if Congress conceive it doubtful whether the powers vested by the Instrument of Confederation and perpetual union are competent to the establishment of such Government that then the Committee be instructed to prepare and report to Congress a proper address to the respective States for remedying the defects of the said instrument in this respect.~~

Your committee cannot undertake with any degree of accuracy to propose the limits of the intended Government. They however lay before Congress two projects which have been suggested for consideration viz:

First "That from the mouth of the great Miami which empties into the Ohio to its confluence with the Mad River. *Thence* by a line to the Miami Fort and village on the other Miami which empties into Lake Erie and *thence* by a line to include the settlement of Detroit would with Lake Erie on the north, Pensylvania to the east, and the Ohio to the south, form a government sufficiently extensive to comply with the publick engagements and to receive moreover a large population by emigrants. It is conceived that in the first instance to confine all settlements within these bounds would be much more beneficial; even supposing no disputes were apprehended with the Indians, and that it was unnecessary to guard against those other evils which have been enumerated; than to suffer the same number of people to disperse themselves over a country of at least five hundred thousand square miles contributing nothing to the support, but much to the embarrassment, of the federal government.

Secondly, that was it not for the purpose of comprehending the settlement of Detroit within the jurisdiction of the new government a more compact and better shaped District for a State would be for the above described line to proceed from the Miami Fort and village along the river of that name to Lake Erie, leaving in that case the settlement of Detroit and all the territory north of the rivers Miami and St Joseph's between the Lakes Erie, St Clair, Huron, and Michigan to form *hereafter* another State equally large, compact and water bound.

With regard to the southern department which comprehends the Cherokees and all the Indians within the United States to the southward of that tribe, your committee having already observed that neither the papers committed them, nor any information of which they are possessed, enable them to extend their views to the Indian affairs of that department, they therefore desire to be discharged therefrom, and that the same may be recommended to a committee better acquainted with the local circumstances of that country.[1]

Seventhly, That the said commissioners be and they are hereby instructed to obtain a particular account of the French Inhabitants at Detroit, Illinois, and other villages within the territories of the United States, and that they give assurances in the name of the United States to those inhabitants [who shall profess their allegiance to the United States] that they shall be protected in the full enjoyment of their liberty and their [just and lawful] property.

Eighthly, [That the said Commissioners be and they are hereby instructed not to admit into a treaty with the said Indians or suffer to be in any manner connected with it any article, stipulation or condition whatsoever, making or confirming or tending to make or confirm to any individual or individuals any grant or grants of land whether real or pretended within the bounds of the United States as before described.]

Ninthly, That the said Commissioners be and they are hereby also instructed to obtain information of the numbers and places of residence of the citizens of the United States who have seated themselves on the northwest side of the

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[1] This supplemental report, in the writing of James Duane, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 175. There is a fair copy on folio 181. The indorsement shows that it was delivered and read September 22, and acted on October 15. According to the record in Committee Book No. 186, the state of Indian affairs in the southern department was, on October 16, referred to Mr. [Benjamin] Hawkins, Mr. [James] Madison, Mr. [Richard] Beresford, Mr. [James] McHenry and Mr. [James] Tilton. This committee was renewed December 18, when Madison was replaced by Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson; and again on January 26, 1784, when Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase and Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight were added in place of Hawkins and McHenry; and on March 23, Mr. [Jacob] Read in place of Tilton. A report was delivered April 19, 1784.

Ohio; to signify to them the displeasure of Congress that they have taken this step, with which the public interest and repose are so intimately connected, without permission or authority, and to discourage to the utmost of their power all intrusions into any of the territories of the United States within their respective departments.

And whereas the trade with the Indians ought to be regulated, and security be given by the traders, for the punctual observance of such regulations, so that violence, fraud and injustice towards the Indians, may be guarded against and prevented, and the honor of the federal government and the public tranquility thereby promoted.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed with instructions to prepare and report an ordinance for regulating the Indian trade, with a clause therein strictly prohibiting all civil and military officers, and particularly all commissioners and agents for Indian affairs, from trading with the Indians, or purchasing, or being directly or indirectly concerned in purchasing lands from Indians, except only by the express license and authority of the United States in Congress assembled:

The members chosen, Mr. [Abraham] Clark, Mr. [Daniel] Carroll and Mr. [John] Montgomery.[1]

Resolved, That the preceding measures of Congress relative to Indian affairs, shall not be construed to affect the territorial claims of any of the states, or their legislative rights within their respective limits.[2]

The committee in their report observe further, "that they do not offer the measures which they have suggested as a sufficient security against the increase of feeble, disorderly and dispersed settlements in those remote and wide extended territories; against the depravity of manners which they have a tendency to produce; the endless perplexities in which they must involve the administration of the affairs of the United States; or against the calamities of frequent and destructive wars with the Indians, which reciprocal animosities unrestrained by the interposition of legal authority must naturally excite; and that in their opinion nothing can avert those complicated and impending mischiefs, or secure to the United States the just and important advantages which they ought to derive from those territories, but the speedy establishment of government and the regular administration of justice in such district thereof as shall be judged most convenient for immediate settlement and cultivation: whereupon,

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[1] According to the record in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* Committee Book No. 186, this committee was renewed December 18, and the matter, together with the plan for a temporary government of the western territory was referred to Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Cadwalader] Morris and Mr. [James] McHenry. On January 7, 1784, the committee was again renewed, both matters being committed to Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Cadwalader] Morris, Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase.

[2] This resolution, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 30, folio 173½.

Resolved, (That it will be wise and necessary, as soon as circumstances shall permit, to erect a district of the western territory into a distinct government, as well for doing justice to the army of the United States, who are entitled to lands as a bounty, or in reward of their services, as for the accommodation of such as may incline to become purchasers and inhabitants; and in the interim, that a committee be appointed to report a plan, consistent with the principles of the Confederation, for connecting with the Union by a temporary government, the purchasers and inhabitants of the said district, until their number and circumstances shall entitle them to form a permanent constitution for themselves, and as citizens of a free, sovereign and independent State, to be admitted to a representation in the Union; provided always, that such constitution shall not be incompatible with the republican principles, which are the basis of the constitutions of the respective states in the Union.)" [1]

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[1] A printed copy of the supplemental report was considered in Congress. The amendments thereon, which are placed within brackets in this text, are in the writing of Elias Boudinot, and the paragraph in parentheses is in the writing of Charles Thomson. The printed report is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folios 195–197.

The members chosen, Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [James] Madison and Mr. S[amuel] Huntington.[1]

Ordered, That the remainder of the report be referred to the said committee.[2]

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1783

On motion of Mr [James] McHenry, seconded by Mr. [James] Madison,

Ordered, That the agent of marine provide Major General du Portail, Brigadier-General Laumoy and Colonel Gouvion, with a passage to France, in the ship *Washington* and that they be informed of the same.[3]

Resolved, That Wednesday next be assigned for electing commissioners for negotiating a treaty with the Indians.[4]

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[1] See note above, on Committee on ordinance for regulating Indian trade.

[2] On this day, as the indorsement states, was read a representation of the inhabitants of Trenton, dated October 13, offering accommodations to Congress. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XXII, folio 283.

Also a representation of the inhabitants of Princeton agreeing to furnish the best accommodations in their power to Congress for one year or during the winter. It is in No. 46, folio 123.

[3] This motion, in the writing of James McHenry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 237.

[4] On this day, according to the indorsement, was read a letter of October 10 from the Superintendent of Finance enclosing a copy of a letter from Oliver Pollock, and correspondence of Pollock with Luis de Unzaga, governor of Havana, and Brigadier General Josef de Ezpeleta. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 137, III, folio 171, and the enclosures on folios 179–193. It was referred to Mr. S[amuel] Huntington, Mr. A[rthur] Lee, and Mr. [James] Duane. Committee Book, No. 186, says the committee was renewed December 18, the new committee consisting of Mr. [Arthur] Lee, Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight and Mr. [Hugh] Williamson.

Also, another letter of October 10 from the Superintendent of Finance, relative to clothing the Army. It is in No. 137, III, folio 197. It was referred to Mr. [Abraham] Clark, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, and Mr. S[amuel] Huntington. Committee Book, No. 186, says the committee was renewed December 18, the new committee being Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Cadwalader] Morris, and Mr. [Abiel] Foster, and they were discharged December 24.

PETITION JOHN REYNOLDS, GAOLER, 1783.

His Excellency, John Dickinson, Esquire, president of the State of Pennsylvania & the Supreme Executive Council.

Whereas, William Tricket & Samuel Crandle Received Sentence on Monday Last, to stand in the Pillory one hour this day for Counterfeiting Coppers of Base Mettle; & Ann Pembroke Also Receive Sentence on Monday last, To be publickly Whiped, twenty-one Lashes for a Grand Laceny by her Committed, this punishment to be Inflicted this day, as the Weather is so bad it may Indanger the healths of the Criminals and they not so publickly Exposed, I therefore pray his Excellency and the Supreme Executive Council would be pleased to remit their punishments Untill Saturday Next. I am with Great Respect his Excellency's and the Supreme Executive Council's Most Obedient & Humble Serv^t,

JOHN REYNOLDS,
Gaoler.

October 8th, 1783.

COUNCIL TO DOUGHERTY & ESPY, 1783.

In Council, Philad^a, October 9th, 1783.

Gentlemen:

Council has received your Letter of the 29th of last Month.* The Board desires that the Sheriff of Bedford County may immediately convey the Prisoners with the utmost Dispatch & all possible privacy under a guard of six or seven men well armed to Lancaster Gaol, & there deliver them to the Sheriff of that County, to be by him safely kept. The State will pay the charges of removing them.

In passing thro Cumberland County, the Sheriff of Bedford, will if it is convenient obtain the authority, & if necessary the assistance of the Sheriff of Cumberland.

Messieurs BARNARD DOUGHERTY and
DAVID ESPY, Bedford.

REPORT ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, 1783.

The United States in Congress Assembled

Wednesday, October 15th, 1783.

The Committee consisting of Mr. Duane, Mr. Peters, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Hawkins & Mr. A Lee, to whom were referred Sundry letters and papers* relative to Indian affairs, report that they have attentively considered the several papers referred to them & have conferred thereon with the Commander in Chief that their report will be confined to Indian affairs in the Northern & Middle departments, as they are defined by the Acts of Congress of the 12th of July, 1775, and to the settlement of the Western Country; the subjects being in the opinion of the committee inseparably connected, and the committee not being possessed of materials which enable them to extend their views to the southern district, that it is represented, and the committee believe with truth, that although the hostile Tribes of Indians in the Northern & Middle departments seriously disposed to a pacification, yet they are not in a temper to relinquish their territorial claims without further struggles. That if an Indian war should be re-kindled, repeated victories might produce the retreat of the Indians, but could not prevent them from regaining possession of some part of the distant and extensive territories, which appertain to the United States, that while such temporary expulsions could only be effected at a great charge, they could not be improved to the smallest advantage, but by maintaining numerous garrisons and an extensive peace establishment; That even if all the Northern & Western Tribes of Indians Inhabiting the territories of the United States, could be totally expelled, the policy of reducing them to such an extremity is deemed to be questionable, for in such an event, it is obvious that they would find a welcome reception from the British Government in Canada which by so great an accession of strength would become formidable in case of any future rupture, & in peace by keeping alive the resentment of the Indians for loss of their country, would secure to its own subjects the entire benefit of the Fur-Trade.

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* See page 114.

That although motives of policy as well as clemency ought to Incline Congress to listen to the prayers of the hostile Indians for peace yet in the opinion of the committee it is just & necessary that lines of property should be ascertained and established between the United States and them, which will be convenient to the respective tribes & commensurate to the public wants, because the faith of the United States stands pledged to grant portions of the uncultivated lands as a bounty to their army, & in reward of their courage and fidelity: & the publick finances do not admit of any considerable expenditure to extinguish the Indian Claims upon such lands: because it is become necessary by the increase of domestic population & emigrations from abroad, to make Speedy provision for extending the settlement of the territories of the United States; & because the public Creditors have been led to believe, & have a right to expect that those territories will be speedily improved into a fund towards the security & payment of the national debt; nor in the Opinion of the Committee can the Indians themselves have any reasonable objection against the establishment recommended. They were as some of them acknowledge, aggressors in the war, without even a pretence of provocation, they violated the convention neutrality made with Congress in Albany, 1775, & in return for proferred protection and liberal supplies; & to the utter ruin and impoverishment of thousands of Families they wantonly desolated our villages and settlements, and destroyed our Citizens. To stop the progress of their outrages, the war, at a vast expence to the United States, was carried into their own country, which they abandoned, weaving then the right of conquest, and the various precedants which might be quoted in similar instances, a bare recollection of the facts is sufficient to manifest the obligation they are under to make atonement for the enormities which they have perpetrated, & a reasonable compensation for the expences which the United States have incurred by their wanton barbarity, & they possess no other means to do this act of justice than by a compliance with the proposed boundaries; the committee are of opinion that in the negociation which they recommend; care ought to be taken neither to yield nor require too much, to accommodate the Indians as far as the public good will admit, and if they should appear dissatisfied at the lines, which may be found necessary to establish rather to give them some compensation for their Claims, than to hazard a war, which will be much more expensive; but it is supposed, that when they shall be informed ot the estimates of the damages which our Citizens have sustained by their irruptions, & of the expenses which the United States have incurred to check their career, it will have a tendency to suppress any extravagant demands." Whereupon,

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* These are enumerated in a printed sheet and a portion of the foregoing, the introductory paragraph being as follows, to wit: The committee, consisting of Mr. Duane, Mr. Peters, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Lee, to whom were referred a report on Indian affairs, read in Congress on the 21st of April last; a letter from General Schuyler, one of the commissioners of Indian affairs for the northern district dated the 11th of August last, with messages to and from certain hostile Indians on the subject of peace; a letter dated the same day, from Ebenezer Allen, employed to assist Mr. Bull, a messenger sent by the board of war by order of Congress, to announce the cessation of hostilities to the Indians in the western country; a report from the board of war, dated the 19th of August, accompanying a narrative of Ephraim Douglass, another messenger to the Indian tribes with sundry enclosures; a letter from the commander in chief, with instructions accompanying the same; extract of a letter to the commander in chief from general Haldiman, commanding for his Britannic majesty in Canada, dated the 17th of August; a letter from the commander in chief, dated the 26th of August, and its enclosures, and a letter from brigadier general Irwine, dated the 3d of September instant.

Resolved, that a convention be held with the Indians residing in the Northern and Middle departments, who have taken up arms against the United States, for the purpose of receiving them into the favour & protection of the United States and of establish boundary lines of property for seperating & dividing the settlements of the Citizens from the Indian Villages and hunting grounds; & hereby extinguishing as far as possible all occasion for future Animosities, disquiet & contention; that first, & as a preliminary, it shall be required that all the prisoners of whatever age or sex among these Indians shall be delivered up.

Secondly, that the Indians be informed that after a contest of eight years for the Sovereignity of this Country. Great Britian has relinquished to the United States all claim to the Country within the limits described by the second article of the provisional treaty between the United States & the King of Great Britian on the thirteenth day of November, in the year 1782, that is to say, from the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, &ca.

Thirdly, that as the Indians notwithstanding a solemn treaty of neutrality with Congress at the commencement of the war, notwithstanding all the advice and admonition given them during its prosecution could not be restrained from acts of hostility & wanton devastation, but were determined to join their arms to those of Great Britain, & to share their fortunes, so consequently with a less generous people than Americans, they might be compelled to retire beyond the Lakes, but as we prefer clemency to rigor, as we persuade ourselves that their Eyes are open to their error & that they have found by fatal experience that their true interest & safety depend upon our friendship; as the country is large enough to contain & support us all, & as we are disposed to be kind to them, to supply their wants and partake of their trade; we from these considerations & from motives of compassion draw a veil over what is passed, and will establish a boundary line between them and us, beyond which we will restrain our Citizens from hunting and setling & within which the Indians shall not come, but for the purposes of trading, treating or other business equally unexceptionable. Fourthly, that the following lines shall be proposed to be mutually agreed upon & established between the United States and the several tribes of Indians who shall be effected thereby; Beginning at the mouth of the great Miami River, which empties into the Ohio, thence along the said River Miamis to its confluence with the Mad River, thence by a direct line to the Miamis Fort at the Village of that name on the other Miamis River, which empties into Lake Erie, thence along the last mentioned river to Lake Erie, comprehending all the lands between the above mentioned lines, & the State of Pennsylvania on the East, Lake Erie on the North, and the river Ohio on the South-East. Fifthly, that the commissioners for the Northern & middle departments, or such other persons as may be appointed by Congress, unite together in holding one convention with the Indians inhabiting the districts aforesaid & their Allies & dependants for the purposes aforesa^{d} & only yield to separate conventions in case of inevitable necessity. Sixthly, and whereas the Oneidas and Tuscarora tribes have adhered to the cause of America and joined her arms in the course of the late war, & Congress had frequently assured them of peculiar marks of favour & friendship, the said commissioners are therefore instructed to re-assure the said tribes of the friendship of the United States, that they may rely that the lands which they claim as their inheritance will be reserved for their sole use and benefit until they may think it for their own advantage to dispose of the same. Seventhly, that the said commissioners be, and they are hereby instructed to obtain a particular account of the French Inhabitants at Detroit, Illinois and other Villages within the territories of the United States, & that they give assurances in the name of the United States, to those Inhabitants who shall profess their allegeance to the United States that they shall be protected in the full enjoyments of their liberty, & their just & lawfull property. Eightly, that the said Commissioners be, & they are hereby instructed not to admit into a treaty with the said Indians or suffer to be in any manner connected with it any article stipulation or condition whatsoever making or conforming or tending to make or confirm to any individual or individuals any Grant or Grants of land whether real or pretended within the bounds of the United States as before described.

Ninthly, that the said Commissioners be, & they are hereby also instructed to obtain Information of the numbers & place of residence of the Citizens of the United States, who have seated themselves on the North-west side of the Ohio; to signify to them the displeasure of Congress, that they have taken this step with which the public Interest and repose are so intimately connected without permission or authority, and to discourage to the utmost of their power, all intrusions into any of the territories of the United States, within their respective departments.

And, whereas the trade with the Indians ought to be regulated & security be given by the trader for the punctual observance of such regulations, so that violence, fraud and injustice towards the Indians may be guarded against & prevented, & the honor of the federal government & the public tranquility thereby promoted. Resolved, that a committee be appointed, with instructions to prepare and report an Ordinance for regulating the Indian Trade, with a clause therein, Strictly prohibiting all Civil & Military Officers, particularly all Commissioners & Agents for Indian affairs, from trading with the Indians or purchasing or being directly or indirectly concerned in purchasing lands from the Indians, except only by the express licence & authority of the United States, in Congress Assembled.

The Members chosen Mr. Clarke, Mr. Carroll & Mr. Montgomery. Resolved, that the preceeding measures of Congress relative to Indian affairs, shall not be construed to affect the territorial claims of any of the States, or their legislative rights within their respective limits.

The committee in their report observe further that they do not Offer the measures which they have suggested as a sufficient security against the increase of feeble, disorderly & dispersed settlements in those remote & wide-extended territories; against the depravity of manners, which they have a tendency to produce; the endless perplexities in which they must involve the administration of the affairs of the United States, or against the calamities of frequent and destructive wars with the Indians, which reciprocal animosities unrestrained by the interposition of legal authority must naturally excite, & that in their opinion, nothing can avert those complicated & impending mischiefs, or secure to the United States the just and important advantages which they ought to derive from those territories; but the speedy establishment of Government & the regular administration of justice in such district thereof, as shall be judged most convenient for immediate Settlement & Cultivation.

Whereupon Resolved, that it will be wise and necessary as soon as circumstances shall permit, to erect a district of the western territory into a district Government as well for doing justice to the Army of the United States, who are entitled to lands as a bounty or in reward of their services, as for the accommodation of such as may incline to become purchasers and inhabitants, & in the interim that a Committee be appointed to report a plan consistent with the principles of the Confederation for connecting with the Union by a temporary Governm^t. The purchasers & inhabitants of the said district untill their number & circumstances shall entitle them to form a permanent constitution for themselves & as Citizens of a free sovereign & independent State to be admitted to a representation in the Union provided always that such constitution shall not be incompatable with the republican principles, which are the basis of the constitutions of the respective States in the Union.—The Members Chosen,

Mr. Duane, Mr. Madison & Mr. S. Huntington.

The United States in Congress Assembled

Thursday, October 30th, 1783.

Whereas it appears that the application of the legislature of Pennsylvania relative to a treaty of the purchase of the Indian Claim to lands within the jurisdiction of that State, proceeded from a respectful attachment to the fœderal Government, & a desire to guard against prejudices, which might arise from the interference of their own particular views with the authority of the United States; that the public interest might have been deeply affected by negotiation for such purchase, independent of & unconnected with the General treaty, to be holden on behalf of the United States.

Resolved, that the commissioners for holding the convention with the Indians under the act of the fifteenth day of October, instant, give notice to the Supreme executive of the State of Pennsylvania of the time & place of holding such treaty to the end that the persons to be appointed by that State for purchasing lands within the limits thereof, at the expence of the said state, may attend for the Sole purpose of making such purchase at the time & place appointed for holding the said treaty, & the Commissioners on the part of the United States, are instructed to give every assistance in their power to the commissioners who may be appointed on the part of Pennsylvania towards promoting the interest of that State as far as the same may consist with the General interest of the Union.

Indorsed,—1783, rec^{d} January 24th. Report of a Committee of Congress of the 25th September, 1783, digested into a Resolution & Transmitted to the Gen. Assembly on the 29th of Jan. J. A. Read 1 time Jan^{y} 29, 1784.

MICHAEL HUFFNAGLE TO MAJ. JOHN ARMSTRONG, 1783.

Pittsburg, September 25th, 1783

Dear Sir,

Inclosed I send you Col. Coxe's answer to the Questions I put to him, which you'll please to communicate to Council, from the answer of Mr. Campbell and Col. Cox they both mention that they look upon me as an interested person. (I shall always think myself happy and shall always be ready to comply with any request that Council may demand of me Consistent with my duty) for which reason I could wish that some other person might be mentioned, although at the same time if Council think proper that I should finish the Business, I shall with pleasure do it.

I have the Honor to be,
your most obt. Hbble. Servt.
MICH. HUFFNAGLE.

Major John Armstrong.

I would mention that if I did not before that what Cox was Indicted for was for acting after the agreement.

M. N.

Directed,—Major John Armstrong,

GABRIEL COX TO MICHAEL HUFFNAGLE, 1783.

Sir,

I am not so much of a Lawyer as to be able perfectly to comprehend the drift or meaning of the several Questions you were pleased to put to me, in your favour without date, but if I was to give my opinion, would declare they seem rather calculated to perplex rather than investigate the matter. I heartily and sincerely wish the Executive Council to be truly informed of every thing relative to the prosecutions, or what might be now properly called persecutions against me in this County for executing my duty as an officer of Virginia & shall be very ready to answer them or any person disinterested, every Question that can lead to information on the subject, you or any person can by recurrring to the Clerks offices of Washington County have, if you choose to be at the expence, Copies of all the

United States in Congreſs aſsembled
June 3. 1784

Whereas it is neceſsary to expedite the holding treaties with the Indian Nations which it appears cannot be done but under the protection of an armed force; therefore Reſolved That the ſecretary in the war office be and he is hereby directed to order three hundred men of the militia directed to be raiſed by the act of this day to be in readineſs to march when and to what place or places the Commiſsioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them ſhall direct; and that the commanding officer of the ſaid troops give ſuch protection to the Commiſsioners as they or any two of them ſhall require; and that the ſaid ſecretary give Order to the different keepers of the public ſtores to furniſh to the order of the Commiſsioners or any two of them, ſuch tents, marquees and other articles as the ſaid Commiſsioners ſhall think proper.

Reſolved That the ſuperintendant of finance take Order for purchaſing and tranſmitting the articles neceſsary for the Indian treaties according to a list hereunto annexed to ſuch places as the commiſsioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians or any two of them ſhall direct That he furniſh ſuch additional articles, not exceeding the ſum of four thousand dollars, as the ſaid commiſsioners ſhall order; And that he contract with ſuch perſons as he may think proper to furniſh ſixty thousand rations for the Indian treaties, at ſuch places as the Commiſsioners or any two of them shall direct, together with such things as shall be neceſsary for the expences of the said Commiſsioners during the Negotiation

Reſolved that the Commiſsioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them being a majority of thoſe preſent be empowered to do the buſineſs of the Commiſsion, and to appoint a secretary, meſsengers, interpreters, store keepers and such artificers as they may find neceſsary and to agree with them for their pay for which they shall draw warrants on the treasury.

Cha Thomson secy.

THE CONNECTICUT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Copy of the Inſtructions and Authorities given by the United States in Congreſs aſsembled to the Commiſsioners appointed to negotiate with the Indian Nations — Videlicet —

The United States in Congreſs Aſsembled
October 15th 1783 —

The Committee to whom were referred ſundry Letters and Papers relative to Indian Affairs Report — That they have attentively conſidered the ſeveral Papers referred to them and having conferred with the Commander in Chief — That their Report will be confined to Indian Affairs in the northern and middle Departments as they are defined by the Act of Congreſs of the 12th of July 1775 and to the Settlement of the western Country — Those Subjects being in the Opinion of the Committee inseperably connected, and the Committee not being poſseſsed of Materials which enable them to extend their Views to the ſouthern District — That it is repreſented and the Committee believe with Truth, that altho' the hostile Tribes of Indians in the northern and middle Departments are ſeriously diſposed to a Pacification, yet they are not in a Temper to relinquiſh their territorial Claims without further Struggles — That if an

Indian War should be rekindled, repeated Victories might produce the Retreat of the Indians, but could not prevent them from regaining Poſseſsion of ſome Part of the distant and extenſive Territories which appertain to the united States — That while ſuch temporary Expulſion could only be effected at a great Charge, they could not be improved to the ſmallest Advantage but by maintaining numerous Garriſons and an extenſive Peace Establiſhment —

That if even all the Northern & Weſtern Tribes of Indians inhabiting the Territories of the united States could be totally expelled, the Policy of reducing them to ſuch an Extremity is deemed to be queſtionable, for in ſuch an Event it is obvious they would find a welcome Reception from the british Government in Canada, which by ſo great an Acceſsion of Strength, would become formidable in Caſe of any future Ruptures — And in Peace, by Keeping alive the Reſentment of the Indian for the Loſs of their Country would ſecure to its own Subjects the intire Benefit of the Furr-Trade — That altho the Motives of Policy as well as Clemency ought to incline Congreſs to liſten to the Prayers of the hoſtile Indians for Peace, yet in the Opinion of the Committee it is just and neceſsary that Lines of Property ſhould be aſcertained and eſtabliſhed between the United States and theirs

Which will be convenient to the reſpective Tribes and commenſurate to the publick Wants — Becauſe the Faith of the United States stands pledged to grant Portions of the uncultivated Lands as a Bounty to their Army and in Reward of their Courage and Fidelity — And the publick Finances do not Admit of any conſiderable Expenditure to extinguiſh the Indian Claims upon ſuch Lands — Becauſe it is become neceſsary by the increaſe of Domestic Population and Emigrations from Abroad, to make ſpeedy Proviſion for extending the Settlement of the Territory of the United States — And Becauſe the publick Creditors have been led to believe and have a Right to expect that thoſe Territories will be ſpeedily improved into a Fund towards the Security and Payment of the National Debt — Nor in the Opinion of the Committee can the Indians themſelves have any reaſonable Objection against the Eſtabliſhment recommended — They were the firſt Aggreſsors in the War, without even a Pretence for Provocation, they Violated the Convention of Neutrality made with Congreſs at Albany in 1775 — And in Return for proffered Protection and liberal Supplies Also to the utter Ruin and Impoveriſhment of Thouſands of Familys they have wantonly Deſolated our Villages and Settlements and Deſtroyed our Citizens — To stop the Progreſs of their outrages the War at a Vast Expence was carried into their Country which they abandoned —

Waving then the Right of Conquest and the Various Precedents which might be quoted in similar Instances, a bare Recollection of the Facts is sufficient to Manifest the Obligations which they are under to make Atonement for the Enormitys which they have perpetrated and a reasonable Compensation for the Expences which the United States have incurred by their wanton Barbarity — And they Possess no Other Means to Do this Act of Justice than by a Complyance with the proposed Boundary — The Committee are of Opinion that in the Negociation which they shall recommend, care ought to be taken neither to yield nor require too much — To accom accommodate the Indians as farr as the publick Good will admit, and if they shall ~~be~~ appear Dissatisfied at the Lines which it may be found necessary to establish, rather to give them some Compensation for their Claim than Hazard a War which will be much more expensive — But it is supposed when they shall be informed of the Estimates of the Damages which our Citizens have sustained by their Irruptions and of the Expences which the United States have ~~sustained~~ incurred to check their Carreer, it will have a Tendency to suppress any Extravagant Demands —— Whereupon

Resolved — That a Convention be held with the Indians residing in the Northern and middle Departments who have taken up Arms against the United States, for the

Purposes of receiving them into the Favour & Protection of the United States and of establishing Boundary Lines of Property for seperating and dividing the Settlements of the ~~Citizens~~ Citizens from the Indian Villages and hunting ~~Gr~~ Grounds and thereby extinguishing as far as possible all Occasion for future Animosities Disquiet and Contention. —

citizens

That first as a Preliminary it shall be required that all Prisoners of whatever age or Sex among the Indians shall be delivered up

Secondly That the Indians be informed that after a Contest of eight years for the Sovereignty of this Country Great Britain has relinquished to the United States all Claim to the Country within the Limits prescribed by the second Article of the Provisional Treaty between the United States and the King of Great Britain on the 30th day of November 1782, that is to say – From the North East Angle of Nova Scotia Scotia Videlicet – That an Angle which is found by a Line drawn due North from the Source of St Croix River to the Highlands, along the said Highlands which divide the Rivers which empty themselves into the River St Lawrence from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean to the northwesternmost Head of Connecticut River, thence down along the middle of that River to the forty fifth Degree of North Latitude, from thence by a Line due west on said Latitude until it strikes the River Iroquois or Cataraqui, thence along the middle of said River into Lake Ontario through the middle of said Lake until it strikes the Communication by Water between ~~the~~ Lake and Lake Erie.

Thence along the middle of said Communication into Lake Erie through the middle of said Lake until it arrives at the Water Communication between that Lake and Lake Huron, thence along the middle of said Water Communication into Lake Huron, thence thro the middle of the said Lake to the Water Communication between that Lake and Lake Superior, thence through Lake Superior Northward of the Isles Royal and Phelipeaux to the long Lake, thence thro the middle of said Long lake and the Water Communication between it and the Lake of the Woods to the said Lake of the Woods, thence through the said Lake of the Woods to the most Northwestern Point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the River Mississippi, thence by a Line to be drawn along the middle of the River Mississippi until it shall intersect the Northernmost part of the 31st Degree of North Latitude — South, by a Line to be drawn due East from the Determination of the Line last mentioned in the Latitude of thirty one Degrees North of the Equator to the middle of the River Apalachicola or Catahouche, thence along the middle thereof to its Junction with the Flint River, thence straight to the Head of St Marys River, and thence down along the middle of St Marys River to the Atlantic Ocean — East, by a Line to be drawn along the middle of the River St Croix from its Mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its Source directly north to the aforesaid Highlands which divide the Rivers which fall into the Atlantic Ocean from those which fall into the River St Lawrence; comprehending all Islands within Twenty Leagues of any part of the United States, and lying between the Lines to be drawn due Due East from the Points where the aforesaid Boundaries between Nova Scotia on the one part and East Florida on the other shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic Ocean, excepting such Islands as now are or heretofore have been within

the

Limits of the said Province of Canada —

Thirdly — That as the said Indians Notwithstanding a ſolemn Treaty of Neutrality with Congreſs at the Commencement of the War, Notwithstanding all the Advice and Admonition given them during its Proſecution could not be reſtrained from Acts of Hostility and wanton Devastation, but were determined to join their Arms to thoſe of Great Britain and to ſhare their Fortunes, ſo conſequently with a leſs generous People than Americans, they might be compelled to retire beyond the Lakes, but as We prefer Clemency to Rigor, as We perſwade Ourſelves that their Eyes are now open to their Error, and that they have found by fatal Experience that their true Intereſt and Safety depend upon our Friendſhip, as the Country is large enough to contain and ſupport us all, and as We are diſpoſed to be kind to them and to ſupply their Wants and partake of their Trade We from thoſe Conſiderations and from Motives of Compaſsion drawe a Veil over what has paſsed, and will eſtabliſh a Boundary Line between them and us, beyond which We will reſtrain our Citizens from hunting and ſetling, and within which the Indians ſhall not come but for the Purpoſe of trading, treating and other Buſineſs equally unexceptionable —

Fourthly — That the following Lines ſhall be propoſed to be mutually agreed upon and eſtabliſhed between the United States and the Savage Tribes of Indians who ſhall be affected thereby — Beginning at the Mouth of the

Great Miamis River which Emptys into the Ohio,
thence along the said River Ohio to its ~~Confluence~~
Confluence with the Mad River, thence by a direct
Line to the Miamis ~~Fort~~ at the Village of that
Name, on the Other Miamis River which Emptys
into Lake Erie thence along the last mentioned
River ~~in~~to Lake Erie, comprehending all the
Lands between the above mentioned Lines and the
State of Pennſylvania on the East, Lake Erie on the
North, and the River Ohio on the South East.

Fifthly — That the Commiſsioners for the Northern
and middle Departments or such other Persons
as may be appointed by Congreſs unite together
in holding one Convention with the Indians
inhabiting the Districts aforesaid and their Allies
and Dependants for the Purpoſes aforesaid and
only yeild to seperate Conventions in Case of
invincible Neceſsity —

Sixthly — And whereas the Oneida and
Tuscarora Tribes have adhered to the Cause of the
~~America~~ and joined their Arms in the Courſe
of the late War, and Congreſs have frequently
aſsured them of peculiar Marks of favour and
Friendſhip — The said Commiſsioners are therefore
Instructed to reaſsure the said Tribes of the
Friendship of the United States, and that they
may rely that the Lands which they Claim
as their Inheritance will be reserved for their
sole Use and Benefit, until they may think
it for their advantage to diſpoſe of the same

Seventhly — That said Commiſsioners be
and they are hereby inſtructed to obtain a
particular Account of the French Inhabitants of
Detroit, Illinois and other Villages within the
Territories of the United States, and that they
give

Assurance in the Name of the United States to those Inhabitants who shall profess their Allegiance to the United States that shall shall be protected in the full Enjoyment of their just and lawful Property

Eighthly - That the said Commissioners be and they hereby are Instructed not to admit into a Treaty with the said Indians or suffer in any manner to be connected with it, any Article, Stipulation or Condition whatsoever making or confirming or tending to make or confirm to any Individual or Individuals any Grant or Grants of Land whether real or pretended within the Bounds of the United States as before described.

Ninthly - That the said Commissioners be and they are hereby instructed to Obtain Information of the Numbers and Places of Residence of the Citizens of the United States who have seated themselves on the Northwest side of the Ohio, to signify to them the Displeasure of Congress, and that they have taken this step with which the publick Interest and Repose are so intimately connected, without Permission and Authority, and to discourage to the Utmost of their Power all Intrusions into any of the United States within their respective Departments

And whereas the Trade with the Indians ought to be regulated and security be given by the Traders for a punctual Observance of such Regulations, so that Violence Fraud and Injustice towards the Indians may be prevented and the Honour of the federal Government and the publick Tranquility thereby promoted

Resolved That a Committee be appointed with Instructions to prepare and Report an Ordinance for regulating the Indian Trade with a

Claus therein strictly prohibiting all civil and Military Officers and particularly all Commiſsioners and Agents for Indian Affairs, from trading with the Indians or purchaſing or being directly or indirectly concerned in purchaſing Lands from Indians, except only by the Expreſs Licenſe of the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled —

In Congreſs March 3d — 1784 —

Reſolved that to morrow be aſsigned for electing five Commiſsioners to negotiate with the Indians —

Reſolved — That a Committee be appointed to reviſe the fourth and fifth of the Instructions of the fifteenth of October last to the Commiſsioners to be appointed to negotiate a Treaty with the Indians, and to report the Alterations neceſsary to be made —

In Congreſs March 4th — 1784 —

Congreſs proceeded to the Election of five Commiſsioners to negotiate with the Indians and the Ballots being taken Mr George Rogers Clarke, Mr Oliver Wolcott, Mr Nathaniel Greene, Mr Richard Butler and Mr Stephen Higginſon, were elected —

In Congreſs March 5th — 1784

Reſolved — That the Preſident immediately inform the Gentlemen elected Commiſsioners ~~of any~~ holding a Treaty with the Indians of their said Election — and that as it is the Wiſh of Congreſs that the Negotiation should commence as soon as poſsible, the Commiſsioners are deſired to meet at New York the tenth day of

April next, to fix upon the Times and Places of holding the Treatys with the different Nations and Tribes of Indians, and give them respectively the speediest Information of the Time and Place determined on inviting them to meet accordingly.

Resolved — That all Appointments of Persons for negotiating with the Indians, prior to that of the 4th instant be and they hereby are repealed —

Ordered — That the Secretary prepare and lay before Congress the form of a Commission for the Persons appointed to negotiate with the Indians, making any three of them competent to the Business of their Commission.

In Congress March 19th 1784

On the Report of a Committee to whom were referred the fourth and fifth Articles of their Instructions to their Commissioners for Negotiating with the Indians —

Resolved — That the said fourth and fifth Articles of Instructions of the 15th of October 1783 to the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians be repealed and in lieu thereof the following substituted

4th. That a Meridian Line passing thro the Lowest Point of the Rapids of the Ohio to the Northern Boundary of the United States, shall be the proposed as the Line of Division between the several Tribes of Indians and these States, so that all the Lands comprehended between the said Boundary on the North, the Ohio on the

South, the said Meridian on the West, and Pennsylvania on the East, or so much thereof as the said Tribes having Tittle thereto may be induced to part with, shall be ceded to the United States, and Possession thereof, or of any Part thereof be given to the United States at such Times as may be agreed upon by the Treaty

5ly The said Commissioners are Instructed as farr as they shall find it convenient, to Treat with the several Nations at different Times and Places, and where Necessity shall Oblidge them to bring two or more Nations together, that they still keep their Treaty and Conferences as distinct as may be — that they Countenance every Disposition in any of the Six Nations to treat and Act seperately and indepently, and that in general, they discourage every Coalition and Consultation which might extend to involve any one Nation in the War of Another —

Resolved — That the Commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians shall each be allowed Six and an half Dollars per Day for the Time they shall be imployed in that Business in full for their Services and Expences, exclusive of their Expences at the Place or Places where the Treaty shall be held —

Resolved — That the Superintendant of Finance cause to be purchased a Quantity of Goods to be applyed in negotiating the

Treaty with the Indians, the Amount not to exceed the Sum of fifteen Thousand Dollars including those on Hand, according to an Estimate specifying Kinds and Quantities, to be furnished by the Commissioners for Negotiating the Treaty –

Resolved That the Commissioners be and they hereby are authorized and instructed to appoint a one or more suitable Person or Persons with such allowance as they may think reasonable, to receive the aforesaid Goods, to take charge of their Transportation to such Place or Places as may be pointed out by the Commissioners, and to attend to the safe keeping and issuing agreeably to such Orders as he or they may receive from the said Commissioners, all Goods committed to his or their Care, which Orders are to be produced as Vouchers on the Settlement of the Accounts, and that the Superintendant of the Finance furnish to the Orders of the said Commissioners the Sums of Money necessary for carrying this Resolve into Execution

Resolved That the said Commissioners be and they hereby are directed to make and transmit to Congress from Time to Time Estimates of such additional Quantities of Goods as may be found necessary in the Course of their Negotiations in Order that the proper Measures may be taken for procuring and forwarding the same –

Copy.

By The United States in Congreſs Aſsembled

A Proclamation

Whereas by the Ninth of the Articles of the Confederation it is among Other Things Declared that "The United States in Congreſs Aſsembled have the sole and exclusive Right and Power of regulating the Trade and Managing all Affairs with the Indians not Members of any of the States provided that the Legislative Right of any State within its own Limits be not infringed or violated"

And whereas it is eſsential to the Well fare and Interest of the United States that all Cauſes of Quarrel or Complaint between them and the United States or any of them should be removed and prevented

Therefore the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled have thought proper to iſsue their Proclamation, and they Do hereby prohibit and forbid all Perſons from making Settlements on Lands inhabited or claimed by Indians without the Limits or Juriſdiction of any particular State, or from purchaſing or receiving any Gift or Ceſsion of such Lands or Claims without the Expreſs Authority and Directions of the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled —

And it is moreover declared, that every such Purchase or Settlement, Gift or Cession not having the Authority aforesaid, is Null and Void, and that no Right or Title will accrue in consequence of any such Gift, Purchase or Settlement.

Done in Congress at Princetown this 22. day of September in the year of Our Lord 1783. and of our Sovereignty and Independence the eighth —

Elias Boudinot President

Charles Thomson Secretary

THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IV 1c

Regis

The United States in Congreſs Aſsembled

To All who shall see these Presents Send Greeting —

Thomas Mifflin

Whereas We have judged it proper that One or more Convention or Conventions be held with the Indians residing within the United States of America in the Northern and Middle Departments comprehending the whole of the Indians known by the Name of the Six Nations, and all to the Northward and Westward of them, and as farr South as the Cherokees exclusive, for the Purposes of receiving them into the Favour of the United States, and of establishing Boundary Lines of Property, for seperating and dividing the Settlements of the Citizens of the United States of America from the Indian Villages and hunting Grounds and thereby extinguishing as farr as possible all Occasion of future

Thompson

~~Secretary~~

Animosities, Disquiet & Vexation.

Now therefore Know ye That we reposing Special Trust and Confidence in the Integrity Prudence and Ability of our beloved George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higginson, have Nominated Constituted and Appointed and by these Presents do Nominate Constitute and Appoint the said George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higginson our Commissioners, giving and granting to them and to any three of them full Power and Authority for us and in our Name to confer, Treat, Agree and conclude with the said Indians or with any Nation or Tribe of Indians within the Boundarys of the United States or bordering thereon in the northern or middle Department aforesaid, of and concerning the Establishment of Peace with the said Indians, —

Relinquishing their Claims and Settling
Boundary between ~~[illegible]~~ them and
the Citizens of the United States, in
as Ample Form and with the same
Effect as if We were personally present
and acted therein, Hereby ~~ratifying~~
promising to hold Valid and fulfil
whatever shall be agreed upon concluded
-ed and Signed by our said Commissio
-ners or any three of them ——

In Testimony whereof We have
caused the Seal of the United States
to be hereunto affixed — Witness
His Excellency Thomas Mifflin Pre
-sident of the United States in Congress
Assembled this 12 Day of March in
the Year of our Lord One Thousand
seven hundred and Eighty four
and of our Sovereignty and In
dependence the Eighth

Copy

Fryday April 16th 1784 —

By the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled — Reſolved that the Commiſsioners for treating with the Indian Nations be informed, That as Congreſs are deſirous of having that important Buſineſs effected with the utmost diſpatch and as little Expence as poſsible, the fifth Article of their Inſtruction, so farr as it enjoins the holding of ſeveral and diſtinct Treaties be diſpenſed with, and that the ſaid Commiſsioners are hereby Authoriſed to treat with the ſaid ſeveral Nations of Indians collectively or at different Times and Places as they ſhall find most conducive to the Interest of the United States

Thursday June 3d 1784

By the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled

Whereas it is Neceſsary to expedite the holding Treaties with the Indian Nations which it appears cannot be done but under the Protection of an Armed Force — Therefore

Reſolved — That the Secretary of the War Office be and he hereby is directed to order three hundred Men of the Militia directed to be raiſed by the Reſolution of this day to be in readineſs and March when and where the Commiſsioners for Negotiating with the Indians or any two of them ſhall direct, and that the Commanding Officer of ſaid Troops give ſuch Protection to the Commiſsioners as they or any Two of them ſhall require — And

III | That the said Secretary give Orders to the different Keepers of the public Stores to furnish to the Order of the Commissioners or any two of them such Tents, Marquees and Other Articles as the said Commissioners shall think proper —

Resolved — That the Superintendant of Finance take Order for purchasing and transmitting the Articles necessary for Indian Treaties according to a List hereunto annexed to such Places as the Commissioners ~~for Indian~~ appointed to negotiate with the Indians or any two of them shall direct — That he furnish such additional Articles not exceeding the sum of four Thousand Dollars as the said Commissioners shall Order, and that he contract with such Persons as he may think proper to furnish forty Thousand Rations for Indian Treaties at such Places as the Commissioners or any two of them shall direct, together with such Things as shall be necessary for the Expences of said Commissioners during the Negotiation

Resolved — That the said Commissioners for Negotiating with the Indians or any two of them being a Majority of three present be impowered to do the Business of the Commission and to appoint a Secretary, Messengers, Interpreters, Store Keepers and such Artificers as they may find necessary and to agree with them for their Pay, for which they shall draw Warrants on the Treasury —

THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Answer to General Schuyler's Speech, Dated at Saratoga the 29th July 1783, concluded upon by the Six Nations and thier Confederates at a meeting held at Loyal Village the 22d October 1783. —— 147

Genl. Schuyler,

The meſsage sent you the 8th Ult. was by the few Chiefs then at home, informing the reason why a final Answer coud not at that time be given. ——

The King, our Father having informed us that he had conclu on a Peace with the Americans, and requested that we woud again down the Axe, which we did; and shortly after Congreſs acquaint with thier pacific intentions, and by different Meſsages [illegible] great desire to live in peace and friendship [illegible] more. — These were the two principal reasons that called the Six and their Confederates together at Sandusky our great Council f buſineſs being finished, the Six Nations accompanied by our Brethren the Southern and Western Nations, returned home a taken the earliest opportunity to acquaint you, that the Six & Confederates have unanimously agreed to live in Peace and with Congreſs, provided thier intentions be agreable and leave poſseſsions undisturbed. ——

We cannot think ourselves in the least blamable for the the part we have done, neither can we think that any Nation who acquainted with our Situation, will impartially say that we done by giving a helping hand to our good and Ancient allies. ——

We cannot at present attend agreable to your invitation for three reasons — That the Business with our Indian Allies has taken up so much time that the approaching Season forbids us undertaking such a Journey. — And that you tell us in your Speech that Congreſs has not impowered or instructed you to make peace with the Indians, we also find that the messages delivered to us, immediately from Congreſs, differs amazingly in Luangage from that of yours, therefore at present are at a loſs to know who Congreſs have appointed for this business. —

We are perfectly acquainted with the exactneſs that Christian Powers [illegible], to all treaties, or settlements of peace, and we now aſsure you, tho [illegible], that any treaty that may take place between Congreſs and us, [illegible] on our part be held as Sacred as by any Nation whatever, we therefor [illegible] you will without delay, transmit this Speech to Congreſs, reque [illegible] inform us who the proper persons are for us to meet and [illegible] and solemn Business, on the knowledge of which [illegible] to attend and settle every matter amicably, and will [illegible] Friendship and Satisfaction to both parties. —

The few Prisoners which still remain with us, will of course be delivered u

We much regret at hearing of a few people that have been seen either surveying or invading some of our Lands, contrary to the Treaty held at Fort Stanwix in 1768 when a Boundary line was fixed upon, and settle by our late worthy friend and Brother Sir William Johnson, the American Deputies, and ourselves, notwithstanding this we never attempted to hurt or molest them, but was rather inclined to think their own ignorance led them there, and not impowered or Authorised by Congreſs so to do; However we wish and desire to be informed by return of the Bearer,

whethe

whether Congreſs have given any such Authority or not, as we wish to hav
every difficulty removed that may have the appearance of retarding
the intended Friendship — We are apprehensive that there must have
been a mistake in the delivery of our meſsage sent by Skenando and
Peters, which meſsage was immediately from all the Six Nations
(a very few excepted) and their Confederates, we therefore desire that you will
send by the Bearer a true Copy as taken down by Jacob Reed, —

As translated by me, (Sign'd) Joseph Brant

The Six Nations & Confederates
Answer to General Schuylers Speech
dated at Saratoga 29th. July 1783

Loyal Village 22d Oct: 1783

Letter from Joseph Brant to Genl Schuyler

Goragh Thanyeadakayongh Shatthondat.

Keagayen, ne onen, inongh,

ye yaghhawise, tsi naghhe, ne aonsaghsgwaweanaghrongea, nongwanonghsyonni, onea Kadinonwa, sesadogease, netsi nahawea, ne dagwanontshadironde, ne Kadiratsiniyongwayerengh, neyongwengh, nyejongwadadigh, ne Tkaweaniyoneheas sonnewe, onenhetsisatsgeaghse, nenyeyatkhinhaongh, ne neratigowaneaghse, Rotighsgearageghte, janoghsgegh, Rotitsyeahayeaghnonghne, neyongwayereagh, Shonsaghsaronge, geaKayea, aoriwa, netsioneasgeanea, saghsongwanigonrayea ne goraghgowagh, netsiyongwadiriyeghne, ok ne onitsionen, toghkka naKhiweanarenge, ne Congreſs, ne Radinonwetse, nekkayaneraghsera, yagwadon, yeyongwatianhaongh, onenwahatiwe yeaneadane, agwegongh, nagwatadegeashon, nene Ethionayawea, ne Kayaneraghsera, daonsedewarighontea, nesane Tkaweaniyo, ne orighwage, tsinenhadiyere, ne Congreſs, nene Dejaron, yot gonnyeas, tsi nayawea — igeaghyaghtease geagh, deyagweghre, nagwatadegeashon, yongwanonwaradon ongeagh, netsisagwayenawase, goraghgowagh yaghkati oni Keateghseragon, thaondon, ne onea Kayaneraghsera Deajagwarighentea, yagwearon. Kadi, yaghdeatiyongwagwenyongh neyadayongwadeage, nonwa, nedagwanontshawagongh, Deyoriwagegh, wakarighonni, Keakayea, neni Esotsi, waongwaneanagene, ne agwadategeathon, Kariwes, wagwaweyeanendane, netsiwaongwayotka, ne Kayanereaghsera, ha onsonderighwaghkadi, ikeaghyagwanonwese, dakareasavonge, ikeanonwa, hagwaghkiigh heayagwasayaghorigwasotseradegea, tsineayagwatyere, nekatiwaonni, yaghteadeyaweght, oktnayagwasheatonghgwe, netsi nikarighwansoron, yongwayode — okharoya, nene sadon, arekhotekkhenigonrayeaderigh, ne Congreſs, ne tsi nonwa, nihodinigonrotiagh, ne ighnenon kadinagyongweonwegh, ne kadikanoron, netokat shegongh, aghshongh thentyetarighonnyeani, oninyagwayatoreane, asekeaghtokat teasheawea, yaghdeonnughre, ne, Congreſs isegegh, akayageagitaghgwe, ne Raotinigonranongweonwegh, — nonkatigh — netsi onea, Degenigh, ok ne Skaoriwat, watyakhiweanaronge, na gwaghrononghka, ne Congreſs, newatearoseriyo tsi nikadiweanodea, ne Kayanereaghsera, da onsayagwarighonden, nok nise, sadon, aghsondewakateryeadare, ~~[illegible]~~, ~~[illegible]~~, yagwearonkadi, kanekkhere, geagwiteghtsi onen, ethomayawea, ne onea, intewatsyeahayea, heaskatnegh, nensegeaonghde, ne itho ne, heasewaweyeanataon, ne Congreſs, Kanekkhere, heaghskeRori, netsi nonwa, nakarighonni, yaghteathateyongwadatgeagh — ok ne oni yagwanonwese, nethaDatayawea, nedejarongh, oghstongagh, haitete=

Natakedewaderane, tsi haontsistonni, yeakarigkwea. Daghtesegeaniighnagwatadegeaskon, agwaghneya gwarighwayeaderigh, netsini karighhoteagh, ne Kayanerraghsera, donsayerighonden, keayagwagweninya Deyagwayatigh, ne seonigea orighwagweniyo, ne a ka aongkada yeninnijea ~~[illegible]~~ niyawea Kati, nenne egh, neesadon, iigh keagwadeweyea nonnyea ~~[illegible]~~ tsinonsewayere, ne togeaghge haonsayoyanerenne, Keakayeasaderyeadaruk onen thoagh, agwegongh, jakkhiyaghthawea, ~~ne~~ nekenaghsgwa, togh karasane, shegongh, yederondon yotkade, nengeaniyakasa, nekati karighonni yonhight ne okthi kaweaniyo tsinayawea, ayago Denthine, ne tsi natidewadere, athajnongegh, Ethonekadi, neniyeyongwariwayea, tsi onenna Dendewadatgea, Ethone keatsi sewatkaghtho —

Keakayen, yagwarighwisakes, nene otthongh teniyotyerengh, nenotsi onen nonwakayanerenghsera, yotiriwade, nene okthiwagwegon, ronnisenejongweta, Rotiyanadonhatyese, ne onghweajagegh, kaeghda, nentsinonweiighniyagwaweaniyo karighwison, Teyeonwaghgwatha, 1768 ~~[illegible]~~ ok kati thadeyakhikanere, yongweron hagwagi orighwagegh ne onen, keayagwarighwanatsononkadi, yongwatogeaghs, togatnongeagh, Congreſs Rotirighwison keateaskayea, ne okthiyagoriwa ne Ethoyegwariyese, onnyonweajagegh — yongwarhare, kadinkeajagwaronge, orighwagwegongh, ne onen keajonwe, nongwatkanhatsera,, Kayonnigh —

Keaoni kayeatsiniyoght, tsiyagwennon Donnuon [illegible]

Riongh, tsisaghrongeagh, ne Shiyagwadati, ne Skeanondon-
agh, ok Petreasrodighagh, neoni ne tsiniyongwealyogodiea
niyongwadatigh ne Ethone, ne tsiniyought, ne tsisaya-
don, niyaghtigeagh, ongwanonsagwegon, thageahage
ongwanonghsagwegongh, agwagh Ethoneyeyongwadatigh
yaghkanne ka oyadeyeleron, agononghsyonni ageahage
ne ok netogh keya, newaghsthaugh, oneniyodeha ka,

[redacted]

...... ,, yagwanonwese, kadi, ne daontaghsatin
nyighde, ne tsini kaweanage tagwaweanarongea, ne
Ethoghgegh, waghheyondon, Jacob Reed Roghyadon
ne kadi ne Copy, ayagwat kaghtho — aseggeagh ya-
gwanonwese nagwagh otogeaongh orighwagwegon
[illegible]iyawea — Raodiwea^na Rodinonghsyonni yehadi-
gwegon, Rondatigeashon — Orenquataia

Onyaghtsirieongh Octobr 23 178[illegible]

Rarhyadon —

Jos. Brant or Thayendaneg

N. B. Akoni Ahaditogeaghse, ne Congress, Ronageaonne, [illegible]
ne ne ugh yongwadanaroghon, sinaghse, watsiriyoge, ronwa[illegible]
Ebenezer Allen, Rayanenigh Shaawine, Thonarawe Enta[illegible]
nonkaghyadonghsera, Colonel George Morgan, onghteghroghya-
don, etho niyaghreaneteaghne kaghyadon, August 12th 1783 from
Philadelphia Etho nikayerengh yaghgadaghtthonage Kariwa-
tiinna agwathaghtto ihea roneaghsowea tionasayare; ti hadijate-
kadi, ne Radigowanagise, [illegible] ne ahadinjiona-
rege, neyonguedakskheat, teghsa aonetthonteja [illegible]
agonkthiyateweaa natroni, ihea agwaghse, yea syo gwatenta
[illegible] yonk [illegible] ya[illegible]

General Schuyler
to
Razangoronaksen
Okdinonghtyani the
Oenand

Was Read in
the Indian
Language – signed
Jos. Brant or
Thayendanega
to
Genl Schuyler

Korah Thanyeadahnogea, alias, Genl. Schuyler Attend

It is a long time since You Should have heard the Voice of us the Six Nations — You now therefore hear from us on the Subject of the Invitation You sent us to meet You — In Our late reply to Your last, we told You that You Should hear from us more particularly after the return of our principal Warriors who were gone to attend a Council held at Sandusky, when We promised to communicate to You the Transactions of the same — We were induced to hold us in Council as the King had disposed our minds to peace, who had been at War, and as we had received received several Messengers from Congress signifying their Inclination to make peace with us — Our Deputies at the Council have induced all our Brethren to accede to a peace with You; But upon the particular condition that Congress act upon some fixed principle in settling the same, & that the Terms be such as shall be honorable for both parties; For We, and our Brethren do not think that we were drunk when we ~~entered~~ gave our Assistance to the King: Nor do we mean to trifle, in adjusting a peace — We had it not in our power to meet You at this present time agreeable to Your Invitation for two reasons — The first is that the season became so far advanced, before we & our brethren could get through with all our necessary business preparatory to a peace — We wish to have every thing adjusted in a proper manner, as we mean to make a peace more lasting without ~~a~~ recurring to the treaties settled with our Ancestors — We cannot therefore, lightly hurry over matters of such importance as now engage our attention — The other reason is, that You have told us that You do not yet know the mind of Congress respecting us the Indians — It would therefore have created an embarrassment should we have met You before You had received Instructions from

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

Congreſs on the Subject – Or perhaps it is not the Intention of Congreſs to communicate their minds to us through You, as We have received ~~repeated~~ Two Speeches immediately from Congreſs, both containing friendly proposals of peace, but You tell us, You know nothing of the Matter – We say therefore that we will ~~without fail~~ at all events meet You in Council early the ensuing Spring, by which time Congreſs may determine upon the Matter – You will doubtleſs acquaint Congreſs with our Reasons why we have not yet met You, agreeable to Your Invitation —

We wish You to appoint a place, somewhere between us & You, where You will meet us & kindle a Council-fire, where the busineſs may be settled at once with us & all our Brethren – We know how to treat of peace, shall speak our own sentiments, & shall not receive Instructions from any other Quarter, tho at the same time we thank You for Your offers to point out to us the measures we are to pursue to obtain a peace —

We would acquaint You that we have dismiſsed most of the Prisoners, tho there are yet some few remaining with us, particularly small Children, of which there is a considerable number, whom we could not poſsibly have conveyed to You this fall, on account of the difficulties & hardships to which they must have been exposed at this advanced season – But when we meet You again You shall see them —

F

S. Bell

We ask the reason why so many of Your People, since ~~the app~~ there hath been a prospect of peace have made themselves so busy to explore the Country in previof Settlements on Lands, which were acknowledged to be Ours at the Treaty held at Fort Stanwix in the Year 1768 — We have given them no interruption, but determined to enquire into the reason of their Conduct, from proper authority — Let us therefore know whether it is done by the direction of Congreſs, or whether they do it of their own accord without any authority — We expect therefore to receive an Answer in full upon this particular, when our Meſsengers return —

Belt

We are apprehensive You did not fully understand our Speech which we sent by Shanondo, & Peter — It was sent in the Name of the whole Six Nations & not in the name of any particular party, as it seems You conceived it to be. We are informed that Jacob Reed sent You our Speech in writing, we therefore wish You to transmit to us a Copy of the same for our perusal, as we wish to avoid all mistakes in conducting our busineſs —

The Speech of the Six Nations together with their Brethren — A String

Deyoghtsirheongh Octr. 23d —

Written by me

Jos. Brant, or Thayendanegea

N.B.

Congress ought to be informed that a white Man named Elenezer Allan who had been a friend of ours since the commencement of the War, deserted from us & on his Return brought a Belt of Wompon and a Letter dated Philadelphia Augst 12th 1783, Signed Coll George Morgan — We take no notice therefore of the Message he brought, as he went without our knowledge —

We desire that the Great men would pay no attention to what any bad fellow may say in our names — We shall ourselves send a Messenger whenever we shall wish ~~them~~ them to hear our Voice — Nor shall we on such an occasion send a white Man — We therefore return the Belt

J. Brant. J. B.

Disposed
3 October 1783
see within

Genl Schuyler
his Letter —
The Speech of the six Natio

The Rt. Hble. Lord North   Quebec 2d November 1783   60

(No. 17)

p the Grace 9th Novr.

[illegible] 3 Rivers 22d do.

My Lord,

I had the Honor to transmit to Lord Sidney, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in My Letter of the 22d October 1782 (No. 2) a Copy of the Proceedings in the Courts of Justice in a Cause which was instituted against Messrs. Taylor & Forsyth, at the Instance of the Crown for £9355.12.8 3/4 this Currency which they had Overcharged in their Accounts with Col. Johnson the Superintendant of Indian Affairs, and which had been paid prior to the discovery of the imposition, in Consequence of a bill of Exchange which Col. Johnson had drawn upon Me. I now have the Honor to ~~[illegible]~~ transmit to Your Lordship Copies of the Reports and Proceedings of a Board which I appointed to examine the Claims which Colonel Johnson made against Government. I find his Claims and the Transactions of Messieurs Taylor & Forsyth so blended together, that I cannot take upon Me to decide

Lordship Copies of the Reports and Proceedings of a Board Which I appointed to examine the Claims Which Colonel Johnson Made against Government. I find his Claims and the Transactions of Messieurs Taylor & Forsyth so blended together, that I cannot take upon me to decide What should be Allowed or disallowed. I have to request that Your Lordship will Cause the proceedings ~~in the~~ in the Cause of Messrs. Taylor & Forsyth, and the Report and proceedings of the present Board, to be Laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majestys Treasury, and that Your Lordship will second an application Which I have made to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that proper Persons should in Conformity to the Seventh Report of the Commissioners of the Public Accounts, be Sent to this Country in order to examine upon the Spot the Accounts of the very great Sums of Money Which have been expended from the Commencement of the War in it. In the Mean time I have thought proper to inclose an Account of the Monies Which Colonel Johnson has either Received Himself, or Which has been paid to Others by his order, Amounting to £75,272..19..0½. and for Which he is Accountable.

Col. Johnson &
Mr. Stedman

There are likewise inclosed, Papers relative to a Transaction of Colonel Johnson With Mr. Stedman at the Carrying Place near Niagara and a Mr. Stevens; from thence, Some light May be Thrown upon the Abuses Which have been committed in the Indian Department whilst it was under the direction of Colonel Johnson.

In Justice to Lieut. Col. Butler, I must assure Your Lordship that the Merit of keeping the Six Nations faithful & attached to the Kings Interests in the Years 1775, 76, &c. belonged to Him and not

Whilst it was under the direction of Colonel Johnson.

In Justice to Lieut. Col. Butler, I must assure Your Lordship that the Merit of keeping the Six Nations faithful & attached to the Kings Interest in the Years 1775, 76, &c. belonged to Him and not to Colonel Johnson, Who instead of remaining with or Joining the Indians Who were assembling at Niagara, Went to England in 1775, and did not return to Canada till the Year 1779 — I have the Honor to be &c.

(Signed) Fred: Haldimand.

The Right Hble Lord North
(No 18)
by the Grace 9th Novr —

Quebec the 6th Novr 1783.

My Lord

Mr. Cuyler [illegible]

Mr. Cuyler the Late Mayor of Albany will have the Honor to deliver this Letter to Your Lordship. Upon his arrival in this Province in October 1782, I gave Him the direction of the Royalists, Continued

to

Cataraqui 3d November 1783 — 67.

Sir,

I have the Honor to Receive your Letter of the 23d Ult. The Lands have been purchased from the Missisaugas, which bargain was much facilitated by an Old Chief of them whose usual residence is in Canada but happened to be here at the time, his name is Mynass [illegible] has been in Europe, is now an Old Man and expects to be readily rewarded that the Service on the occasion will be recommended by Sir John Johnson to continue him [illegible] Recommended.

As soon as the purchase was made which (up the Lake) extends about Forty Five Miles I sent an Officer of the Garrison to Explore the Country by whose Report, that the Lands in general are of a most Excellent quality, easily cleared and intersected with Rivers on which are several Falls where Mills can conveniently be erected.

I am much obliged to His Excellency for the Order on Carleton Island for Rum. Such is the nature of the Indians love, that if there was no [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] they

they are exceedingly covetous, but if they are not employed seldom ask for any thing, as the latter is mostly the case at present a very small quantity of Rice or Provisions will satisfy them, [illegible] will be managed with the greatest economy, indeed of late I have greatly reduced them from what it was without any detriment. The Natives in [illegible] [illegible] worth of very little expense to Government.

The party which went [illegible] [illegible] returned some days after [illegible] they found what they [illegible] [illegible] in Northern Course. the [illegible] in general are of a better quality than those referred by Lord Bathurst in the [illegible] of the [illegible] Government which [illegible] [illegible] in very [illegible] they do not think upon that [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] go no farther.

The weather has been exceedingly bad here lately very unfavorable for carrying on the works and in particular for Mr [illegible] operations. I was in hopes the Saw Mill would have been finished this [illegible] which the badness of the weather [illegible] [illegible] prevented. [illegible] [illegible] not being

materially

continually wanted after the arrival of the Men

sent by Capt. Twiss, I have not taken the [illegible]

to write for him, especially as there are many Offic

employed here at present.

I have the Honor to Enclose the necessary

obligations from such as had permission to Build here

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedient and

most Humble Servant

MEMO.

No. 32

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

1783

Major Watts
Commander of
Fort Nelson

26th Nov
1783

Informs Shawnese
and Mingoes that he
regrets to hear of attempts to
steal their horses - urges
them to release prisoners
held by them asks that
traders going to them
with salt be protected,
and that attempt be
made to restrain the
Cherokees from
working mischief

ACTION.

[illegible] I Received your Friendly Talks by Pycall the young man, who your Chiefs Requested to assist them, with your women and Children. I am much pleased with your candour In Informing me, that some foolish people, have Come to your Land, to Steal horses — I Cannot blame you for the manner, in which you treated them; as it is the orders of the head men of the Big Knife, that no person shall, go, to your Land, to do you any harm or steal your horses While you are in friendship with us — but I rather you had taken them and brought them to this place, that we might Shew you that we disapprove of Such Conduct, by punishing the Offenders. Now Brothers, as you have a Great many men of our flesh and blood, Prisoners in your hands, whose friends and Relations, are Daily crying to me to get them home, I am in hopes you will send them by Mr. Sherlock such of our flesh and Blood as we shall apply for and you may tell the men that brings them, to this place, that they shall Receive a handsome Present, for each one. Indeed Brothers I think you are so much of men, that you would scorn to detain Prisoners, after peace is made for it is a custom with Great Warriors to give up all Prisoners on both sides, as soon as peace is made — — —

And as you live nearer to the place where the great council is to be held, between the Americans and the Red People, you'l hear what is done sooner than I can — I expect you'le send me the particulars by a Runner & I will satisfy him. — Now Brother: as some of our People is coming to your Land with some Salt, to trade with you, understanding you are in much want of that Article, I expect you'le give them protection, and as some of them wants to go to Fort Pitt you'le Inform them if there be any Danger — The Cherokees are Constantly doing evil Mischief, as they pass from your Towns, and if you do not Drive such bad People from your Land, it may be the Cause of Inflaming the War between you and us — As our young men seems very Uneasy and can hardly be restrained from going to War, but I hope your good sence, will soon Remove that Obstacle, by driving all bad people from your Land, And you and the Big Knife May ever hold fast the Chain of Friendship

Made at Fort Nelson
11th Sept Anno: Domini
one Thousand seven hundred &
Eighty three. —

To
The Chiefs of
The Shawanese
Nation

George Walls
Capt Commt

To

The Chiefs of the Shawanese
Nation

favoured by
Mr. Sherlock

[illegible]
Commandt. at Fort Nelsons
Falls of the Ohio to the Shawanese
& Mingoes. Tu. 26th Novr 1783

Saratoga December 16th 1783

Sir

I have the honor to advise Your Excellency, that I have this moment received a letter from the agent at Schenectady, announcing the arrival of a deputation from the late hostile tribes of Indians. I shall recommend to them to remain at that place, until the commissioners of indian affairs for this department, shall be honored with the determination of Congress respecting the terms of a peace with them.

As the contract for supplying the troops with provision may expire before the pleasure of Congress is signified to us, the Indians will in that case be destitute of subsistance, I have therefore in contem-plation, to direct the agent, to issue such a quantity as may suffice for them during the time they will probably remain

His Excellency the President of Congress at Schenectady and for their support on the Journey home, — As neceſsity will only induce to this measure, — as I shall order nomore to be issued than what I may deem barely neceſsary, and as the Contractors may require my responsibility should the charge be disallowed, I have to intreat that directions may be given for paying the amount. —

Congreſs will please to pardon me for expreſsing my apprehensions, that unleſs peace is established with the indians in the course of this winter, the expence of taking poſseſsion of our western fortreſses will be very considerably enhanced — and that if General Haldimand should order their evacuation before troops on our part can occupy them, they may, and probably will be destroyed by the savages, — besides I conceive there is some danger in delay arising from the influence of a family soured by the loſs of vast property, and

who have now the direction of Indian affai
under the british government

If the Garrisons for the western posts are to move by the Mohawks river, perhaps it might be proper, in order to effectuate their arrival at the points of destination, that the batteaux to convey them should be constructed at Schenectady early in March, and the necessary munitions sent to that place as soon as the navigation of Hudsons river will permit. Congress will please to pardon, and to assign this intrusion to its real motive, a wish to contribute my mite to the public weal.

I have the honor to be
with great respect
Sir Your Excellency's
most obedient Servan
Ph. Schuyler

His Excellency the President of Congress

Letter 11 Decr 1783
P. Schuyler
Read 2 Feby 1784
Referred to
Mr Lee
Mr Jefferson
Mr Williamson

A General Detail of Col. Claus's Services since ~~in America~~ the Commencement of the War 1755. to 1783.—

1st After studying the Iroquois Language under the famous Mohawk King Henry # he entered at the breaking out of the War in 1755. into the Indian Service by Commission ~~of~~ from the then Commander in chief General Shirley as Lieut. under the late Sr. Wm. Johnson, altho he had advantageous offers made him by Genl. Shirley to join his Expedition and it may with Truth & without Vanity be said that Sr. Wms. Success in defeating the French Army marching that campn. against him & taking their Genl. Baron Dieskau Prisoner was in a great Measure owing to ~~his~~ ~~prevailing upon~~ King Henry & by that ~~[illegible]~~ Means the greatest part of the Six Nations to follow ~~Sr. Wm. Johnson~~ to Lake George and it can be made clearly to appear that ~~the Savages~~ they Victory of the ever memorable 8th of Sept. 1755. was owing to the ~~[illegible]~~ presence ‡ Advice # & Conduct of K: Henry, ~~by which~~ which Means ~~it is allowed by~~ every impartial American or foreign will allow that the Colonies were ~~[illegible]~~ by the [illegible] delivered from becoming present that very Campaign. French Provinces that ~~[illegible]~~ No Troops but the 44. & 48. shattered Regts. that served under Genl. Braddock & Genl. Shirley's Regt. at Oswego being then in the Country, & with Baron Dieskau had already laid a plan to secure by cutting of their Communication with the Inhabitants.—

Sr. Wm. Johnson being so sensible of Mr. Claus's Services on that ~~Respect~~ occasion that upon receiving his Title & Gratification from Government he offered Mr. Claus to ask any thing he had in his power to give him, & his not giving an Answer for some time told him to purchase a Company in the Army, he being then a Lieut. in the 60th Regt. & draw upon him for whatever the Purchase ~~[illegible]~~ would amount to, wch. he also performed in 1761.— By the [illegible] in Sr. Wms. Letter to Government in Decr. 1755. giving a full Detail of that Campaign may ascertain & clear up Mr. Claus's assertions ~~[illegible]~~ with regard to K. H. & 6 Nations in that [illegible]

Tuition of # who adopted & regarded him as his own Son

[illegible] being prejudiced [illegible] Genl. Shirley endeavoured to [illegible] upon K. H. [illegible] him by pre- [illegible] & a Comn. [illegible] well knowing of the had Henry he had in a Manner all the 6 Nat. that he knew him to be engaged to Sr. Wm. but the British [illegible] promises had gained over Henry had not [illegible] Mr. Claus [illegible] out of it with all the Arguments in his power Sr. Wm. being then upon his March to Lake George and Mr. Claus [illegible] well satisfied [illegible] Mr. Claus's [illegible] were defeated [illegible] Shirley had not 50 [illegible] he Complained [illegible] the Matter [illegible] so that

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@ in keeping out Scouts who first discovered the French Army & their Strength

‡ his disapproving the Plan of the Council of War for Attacking the Enemy; wch. if put in Execution would inevitably have proved our Ruin.—

his Speech to the French Indns. before the Attack near the Bloody Pond whereby he terrified them & the Canadians that they could not be brought to act, at the Assault of the Camp, leaving their Genl. & the troops in the lurch, & he was defeated.—

2: In 1756 Sir Wm. Johnson receiving his Title of Baronet from His Majesty, with a Reward of £5000 for last Campaigns Services, and being fully empowered by Commission to act as sole Agent & Superintendant of the British Indian Affairs. Mr. Claus at the same time receiving a Commission from Lord Loudoun as Lieutenant in the 60th or Royl. American Regt. thro the Recommendation of Govert. Pownall who was in N. York in fall 1755 when Sr. Wm. arrived there with Mr. Claus and heard of his Services & of whom he took some Notes of Lake George & Situation of the Country between that and Crownpoint wch. Mr. Claus was acquainted with ~~by~~ on Acct. of scouting that way by land & water.

After Mr. Claus's Appointmt. to the 60th Regt. His ~~Lordship~~ my Lord Loudoun ordered ~~Mr. Claus~~ him to continue under Sr. Wm. untill further orders in the capacity of Aid du Camp, he had at the same time the Command of Fort Johnson wth. a Subalterns party given him # there being no active Campaign in that Quarter in 1756.

from Acct. of the Run of Indns. at that place

In 1757 when Fort Wm. Henry on Lake George was besieged a party of Enemy Indns. & soldiers were detached to surprize Fort Johnson, however the Claus was guarded agst. a Surprize and being attacked one Evening at dusk he defended his Garrison in such a manner as to oblidge the Enemy to retreat Sr. Wm. being then at Fort Edward wth. the Militia of ye Prov. of New York. — In 1758 he was at the repulse from the lines at Ticonderoga had ~~the~~ his hat shot to pieces by a ~~[illegible]~~ shot from the french lines.

from ye besiegers

In 1759 he attended Sr. Wm. to Siege of Niagara, & when the Reinforcement from the Ohio attempted to throw themselves in to the Fort and Lt. Col. Massey being detached with his Regt. to dispute their intended Enterprize, ~~and~~ before the Attack Sr. Wm. sent Mr. Claus with an orderly Serjt. of the Army to acquaint Col. Massey that he was ~~coming~~ on his way to support him with the Remainder of the Camp not on duty & Indians & to keep his Ground, in his way to Col. Massey he fell in with a party of Enemy Indians of 10. or 12. who discharged all their

Musketry

Muskettry upon him & the Serjeant by wch, the latter
was killed & by shot & he got clear. The Attack soon was made
& the French ~~Troops~~ gave way upon the Approach of the
Indns and were totally routed and all, surely, their Officers and
Partizans taken Prisrs & next Day the Garrison
surrendered wch was in a great Measure the Means of
Genl Wolfs Success at Quebec.

In 1760. Mr Claus attended Sr Wm in the Campaign
for the Reduction of Canada he narrowly escaped being
killed upon Isle Perrault by a friend Indian in rescuing
a French Gentleman from ill Treatment & Captivity.
~~All~~ Canada surrendering to the Brittish Arms With-
out any Action on the 8th Sept 1760 the War on the
Continent being in a Manner (looked upon as) ended, Mr Claus then was 4th
he ~~never~~ had not any thing allowed him as Aid du Camp to Sir
Wm Johnson, besides acting at the same time as Depy Secry
of Indn Affrs by keeping the Minutes of their Councils and
Speeches in order to be inserted the Indn Records from 55 to 60.

in being ordered
to join his Regt of Foot
wch was to be stld
in Canada to part
with Sr Wm

Before Sr Wm Johnson left Canada Sir Jeffery now
Lord Amherst recommended to Sr Wm to appoint A
Mr Claus his Deputy to the Indn Natns in Canada, and
accordingly he receivd a Commission for that purpose dated
20 Sept 1760. at £200 pr Annum without the Assistance
of Interpreter Clerk &c || and in 1763 the Commissary for
Trade (who had 10s Sterg pr Day) was drowned unluckily near St John
he was obliedged to do his duty till another should be appointed
wch never happend, And in 1767 the Commissaries being struck
off by Governmt, the Province of Quebec never appointing
such Officer he was obliedged in order to preserve Tran-
quility between the Indns & Traders to continue to act
and never recd any thing for it for upon Application
to Sr Guy Carleton for an Allowance he put him
off with a Denial because not acting by Commission
tho the whole Country knew Mr Claus to be the only acting
Indn Officer by authority in the Province & for 15 years preserved Peace
& Harmony between the Traders & Indians without costing
Governmt a £ 500. pr Annum for the whole Indn Departmt
& Indn Expences tho he had every Year Bus. to transact with
12. or 15. diffnt Nations of Indns. || This parenthesis to come in at in
superseded in Sept 1775:)

7 Nations of Lower
Canada confedd Natns
Missisagaes
Chipeways
Outawas

Now & then employed
Barthier & St Jean
Chiles

From the Conquest of Canada to the conclusion of a Genl Peace (being 2½ years) ~~[illegible]~~ 1763. the Canada Indns were kept in a continual ~~fluctuation~~ Restlessness & Alarm by Canadian Emissaries secretely tampering with them by insinuating to them that Canada would never be given up by France, & every now & then ~~[illegible]~~ a Report was spread among them of a French & Spanish Fleet & Army being in the River St Lawrence to retake Canada. During this Interval Mr Claus had much Trouble, made frequent Visits to the Indn Settlements discoursing with them, and convincing them of the ~~[illegible]~~ Absurdity and Falsehood of those reports, requesting them to keep themselves quiet & not believe every idle report, assuring them upon his word & honor they should be ~~[illegible]~~ acquainted by him ~~them~~ with every piece of authentic Intelligence relative to Canada be it for or agst Governmt. by wch Means he often quieted them untill the Country was ceded by the peace 1763...

But the aforesaid ~~However~~ false reports & Messages were clandestinely conveyed to distant Indn Nats by French partizans & Traders in order to keep them from trading ~~[illegible]~~ & at Enmity with the English & their Traders, and unluckily about the Conclusion of the peace an Accident happened in the 6 Nation Country of a white Man's being killed & robbed by a vagrant Indn from this, for wch the then Commander in Chief demanded satisfaction of the Six Natns or rather the Senecas in whose Territory it happened, & they declaring their Inability to deliver the Offender, the Expedition ~~agst them~~ was set on foot agst them of wch they got Intelligence probably from Canada tho' the thing was advertised in the York News paper to engage Volunteers, upon wch the Six Nations sent for Assistance to their Allies the Western Nats and the great war chief Confederacy who with pleasure & forwarded their Dispatches by Belts of Wampm as being infected with the false reports ~~from~~ since the Conquest of Canada and the Instigation of the French Traders residing concealed privately among them, wch brought ~~about~~ on the expensive & unsuccessful Indian War of 1763 & 1764, Pondiac's settling a plan of cutting off all the English & their Garrisons in the Indn Country in Spring 1763 ~~and~~ wch took place accompanied with varied Cruelties in every Garrison, Detroit only narrowly escaped by a Discovery from a friendly Indn Woman but was closely besieged for near 2 Years. The first Body of Men that was raised at N. York agst the Senecas was put under the Command of Majrs Dyell & Rogers proceeded to Detroit were defeated by Pondiac in Summer 1763. when the ensuing Campaign Genl Bradstreet accepted of the Command of a second Indn Expedition consisting.

7

consisting of some British Regts. & provincials from the Colonies a Battn. of Canadians was likewise raised to join said Exp. at Niagara & many of the French Cand. partizans recd. Commissns. in said Battn. in order to entice the Canada Inds. to join them but to no purpose not an Indn. would ‡ join except a few domesticated Inds. from Lorette near Quebec and Canadn. Battn. proceeded for Niagara without an Indn.; Mr. Claus a few days after arriving at Sault St. Louis called a Congress of those Indns. & making a proper Speech to them prevailed upon upwards of 100. of picked Chieftains & Warriors to proceed to Niagara where they were to meet with Sir Wm. Johnson and accordingly they marched off and arrived before the Canadians. Mr. Claus being orderd to remain in Canada that Summer on Acct. of Numbers of distant Nations from Michelimk. & being expected at Montreal whose Fidelity was much suspected and an Acct. being recd. of abt. 300. being arrived at Carillon abt. 50. Miles from town Genl. Burton who then Commanded in Montreal ordered Mr. Claus to meet them & tell them to ~~to~~ return to their home that he would have no Interview with them while the Inds. war lasted, Mr. Claus went upon that disagreable Errant and with the assistance of some Ind. Chiefs after a great deal of Trouble prevailed upon them to turn off for Niagara where they could deliver their Bus. to Sir Wm. Johnson

‡ regd. their Cruelties

In the mean while the Inds. of Canada after their Arrival at Niagara were detached some with Genl. Bradstreet, and some were sent all the way to Fort Pit to Genl. Bouquets army; But the Enemy Inds. at Detroit as well as ~~Fort~~ Pitt on the Ohio would neither come to action out of the woods or receive Messages by Flags or otherwise, for Capt. Morris of the 17. Regt. imagining to have influence enough with the Enemy Inds. as to deliver a Message to come to a parley, narrowly escaped with his Life. The Case was the same with Genl. Bouquet & the Ohio Inds. untill the Detachmt. of Canada Inds. arrived with Genl. Bouquet when their War Chief Asaregoa offered that General to carry a Message from him to the Enemy Indians of the difft. Nations collected in a Body below Fort Pit, and accordingly the General ‡ sent

‡ readily accepted the Offer and

them ~~Offers~~ Proposals of Peace upon certain Conditions

Upon the Arrival of the {Sault St Louis Canada} Indns in their Camp they were surprized to see Indns they acted lately in Conjunction with agt the English to come as Friends & Mediators in behalf of the English and showed themselves shy & suspicious for a day or two but when the Canada Indians discoursed and acquainted them of the Errant and that English ~~being~~ were in full Possession of Canada by a Treaty of peace & that they the Indns enjoyed a mild & happy Government with a plentyfull Trade from the English, they were astonished for the French Emissaries & Traders had hitherto kept them in the Opinion & Suspence that Canada was not or ever would come under the Domint of England wch made them persevere & keep in Arms, And being acquainted with the Person & honest Character of the War-chief, they came to a Resolution of accepting the Terms Genl Bouquet proposed to them, And a Peace was concluded; Pondiac being acquainted by the Ohio Indns of their Proceeding in making Peace wth the English followed their Example & Hostilities ceased in all the Indn Countries and Prisrs were exchanged from 1764 to 65. and 1766. A definitive Treaty of Peace was con by Sr Wm Johnson at Oswego with Pondiac Six Nations & all the Western Nations of Indns and was strictly adhered to on all sides untill the Southern Colonies begun settling on the Ohio when Disturbances between the Whites & Ohio Indns commenced & in some Shape was the Beginning of the late Rebellion. —

It is to be observed here that at the Time Mr Claus was appointed, Deputy to Sr Wm Johnson, there was likewise a Commissary for inspecting the Indn Trade fixed for the Province of Quebec as well

as the Present posts in the Indn. Countries; This
had 10s. Sterl. p diem &
person Called as such till Autumn 1763. when
returning from a hunting party in Lake Champl.
he was unfortunately drowned by his Boats being
overset in a Squall of wind. Sr Wm. Johnson not
having immediately
~~Answering~~ of a fit person to take his post, ordered
Mr. Claus to act in his place untill he could find
a fit person for that Employ wch. was rather a servile
& disagreeable one and no proper person being pitched
upon Mr. Claus saw himself obliged to supply
the sole Management of Indn. Matters in every Ca-
pacity for the whole District of the Provce. of Quebec
under the Crown untill 1767. when on Acct. of the
Non Compliance with the Stamp Act another
Arrangement in Sr. Wms. Departmt. took place
by Seperating the Commissaries for Indn. Trade
& leaving those Appointment to the Charge of the
Colonies who reaped the Benefit of Indn. Trade
however they never appointed any and Mr. Claus
was obliged in order to preserve peace between the Indns
& Traders to continue Acting as Comissary for Indn. Trade
& upon Application to Sir Guy Carleton for an
Allowance was told he could not expect anything
having no Commission for so doing wch. Mr. Claus
or expected
ye same time never craved the Emergency & Tranquility of ye Province
compelling him to act being fully satisfied to act as Sir
Wm. Johnsons Deputy, however was obliged to supply a
detached Office from his @ 10s. p day for upwards of
8. Years & prevented many Quarrels & Disputes between
Indns & Traders to the Governors knowledge, till Spr
1775. Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion Mr. Claus
as usual intended making his Annual Tour of Duty
to Canada by the Lakes George & Champlain but
the Rebels having cut off the Communication by taking
Ticonderoga and the Vessel at St. Johns he therefore
proposed going wth Col. Johnson to a Congress he in-
tended to hold at or above the German Flatts but
the

the Inhabitants beginning to be [illegible]
was obliged to call the Inds. to Oswego; soon after
Mr. Claus proposed setting out for Canada, in the
mean time Mr. Johnson lying at Oswego, & the Country
below becoming alarmed at the Meeting of the
Nations at Oswego Col. Johnson also proposed to
to Canada; On Mr. Claus's Arrival among the
Canada Inds. they acquainted him what Uproar
the Rebels occasioned in taking the [illegible]
wch alarmed them & frds very much & knowing the
to think of it No Body acquainting them with
the History of such Proceedings that even when
the Governor (abruptly called upon them by Sr. Guy Carleton to
bod. parties agt. them they were at a Loss to co
bly with it, having since the Conquest a great
by Sr. Wm. Johnsons Directions considered all the
British subjects as their Brothers & treated them
as such these 15. Years &c. However Mr. Claus giving
them an Acct. of the Beginning of the Rebellion & the
Undutifull as well as most ungratefull Behaviour
of the Americans towards their Mother Country ever
since the Conclusion of the peace & that in case they suc-
ceeded gave them to consider their Danger of losing their
Lands & hunting grounds they readily offered their Service
and proposed going in a Body to meet the Rebels und
the Genls. Schuyler & Montgomery at Ticonderoga

peaceably to advise them to return to return to their home
wise they must expect to be opposed by all the Ind.
Canada; Sir Guy Carleton not approving of the
they were disgusted at the same time furnished Scou
parties at St. Johns from 40. to 50 Men wch harras
the Rebels much & gave us Notice of the Rebels Move-
ments & approach wch happened sooner than expected
the Southwest Curtain of the Fort at St. Johns not [illegible]
when the Rebels appeared and attempted to land on the ver
side the Fort was unfinished by great luck a Relief of
the Inds. Scout was just on its Return when Maj. Preston
stopd them & ordered them to march wth the fresh party
making between 80. & 90. in the whole to harrass the Rebels
in their landing wch accordingly they executed without

the Help of a White Man except their Officers and
after a trippel Attack of 5. or 600. Men obliedged
them to reimbark & retreat to Isle Aux Noix
& thereby saved the Fort St. Johns wch could not have
stood an Attack above 48. hours & the whole Province
being then in a most defenceless State must have
fallen into the hands of the Rebels before the Month
of October wch every Body then allowed. At the same
Time the Indians having near half of their Men
killed & wounded, looked upon their being sent agt.
the Rebels without a Soldier or other White Man as
done on purpose by the Commandg Officer in order
to make a Sacrifice of them left St. Johns to a Man.
Genl Montgomery who after this repulse had the
sole Command of the Rebels at Isle aux Noix (Genl
Schuyler feeling himself ill returned home) took the
Opportuy of the Indns Disgust to send for some of their
Chiefs by flattering as well as threatning Messages
to meet them at Isle aux Noix, otherwise he would de-
stroy Sault St. Louis (Caghnawaga) before his second
Attack upon St. Johns, intimidated them (having no
Assurance of Protection from Sr. Guy Carleton) to send
Deputies who were received wth the utmost Friendship
by G: Montgy & loaded with presents in Cash &ca.
and promising a Neutrality in the Siege were sent
back to Caghnawagey and the Rebels about a fortnight
after the first made a second Descent upon St. Johns
and landed without much Opposition, however the
Fort between that Interval was put in a much better State
of Defence & the Rebels saw themselves obliedged to attack
it in form whereas at the first they intended to Storm by the
unfinished Courtain & must have succeeded; during the Siege
often Mr. Claus was indefatigable in haranguing the Indians
to study their real Interest in keeping true to the Kings
Cause, &ca. And they always assured him to do so whenever they
saw themselves properly supported by the Generals people
the Canadians & others, and being one day warned to march
to St. Johns to assist in raising the Siege, they engaged to
join & meet the White people at La Prairie abt. two
thirds of the way to St. Johns where accordingly they

marched

exposing himself
ten counselling wth
e Indns in their Villages
o the Treachery of
d Rebel Indns who
overed abt. Caghnaw
by Night wch tomahaks
ften made use of to
hold Meetings.——

marked, but after waiting a long time and finding no sign of any White men approaching they returned home displeased, abt that time a Majr Campbell arrived from England wth a Commission of Superintendt of the Canada Indns wch Office Mr Claus was appointed to at the Conquest of Canada wth the Approbatn of the Commandr in Chief as well as the then Superintd Sr Wm Johnson & supplied that Trust to the particular satisfaction of the Indns And findg himself cruelly superseded after a 15 Years faithfull Service Mr Claus ~~&~~ even offering his Services ~~without~~ afterwards out of Office but they were ~~being~~ rejected by the Commander in chief then, he preferred rather than joining the Rebels by whom he would have been readily employed to go to Sea wth his Family very late in the season, the Indns taking a most friendly thor melancholly leave of him telling him they were now left like a lost Flock, to the Rebels who accordingly by bribes & flattery made an easy prey of them; ~~[illegible]~~ after this distressful treatment ~~[illegible]~~ they were ungenerously stigmatised with being a set of traiterous Villains & Rebels by many of the Kings Officers when there was not one in the Service, except Frenchmen that could utter a word of their Language to know their distress & Reasons for the part they saw themselves necessitated to act; Mr Claus arrived in London the latter End of Decemr 75 and took a proper Opporty of laying his Case before the Kings Ministers He that had the American Departmt under his Care pitied Mr Claus's case and said that such an Injury should not have happd him had he been in Office at the same time ordered his Salary as Indn Agent to be continued and after promised prevailed upon him to return to Canada wch was in Spring 1777 with a Command & Superintendancy of the Six confederate Indn Nations an their Allies upon an Expedition to Fort Stanwix in order to make a Junction with Genl Burgoyne's army And act as Superintendt of Indn Affairs during the Absence of Colo Guy Johnson who was attachd with General Sr Wm Howe's Army. On Mr Claus's Arrival at Quebec he found Sr Guy Carleton who was Commander in Chief in Canada at Montreal to whom he immediately forwarded the Kings Letter for his Appointment and in a course of days proceeded himself to Montreal and waiting upon His Excelly the Commander in Chief found

& ‡ the whole Yearly Expence did not cost the Crown above £500. pr Annum for the year when after the Appointment of New Officers the Expence was immence they being unacquainted with the Indns their Language, Manners Disposition & Customs, lavished Prests when no Need and vice versa which confused & disgusted the Indns mind

found him in a cool Mood for which he could guess no
other Reason than that his rejecting Mr. Clauss Ser-
vices in the Year 1775. And his Appointmt. not being agr.
to him, besides his having recd. that Spring some other
disagreeable Orders relative to his Command w^ch were
a great Disappointmt. to him, so that he acted in
Mr. Clauss case as he did with a certain Lt. Mast.
Generals at that very time and did not put him in
Orders as Superintendt. for such an Expedit^n at the
same time ~~with the same time~~ seeing the King's Letter with
regard to Mr. Clauss Appointmt. so clear & pointed that
he left it to the Brig. General who commanded the Exped^n.
who put Mr. Clauss Appointmt. in General orders at
Buck Island before the Expedition proceeded from thence
Sir Guy Carleton had another person for that Office one Butler & for-
merly was an Ind^n Trader to Oswego during y^e war 55 an Officer & afterwards employed
as Interpt. by the late Sr. Wm. Johnson his Successor to y^e 1776
who send him in Autumn 1775 to Niagara in the Capacity
of his Deputy in order to keep him from the disaffected In-
habitants on the Mohawk Riv. he having been born and
brought up in New England; As to Ind^n Matters Col. Johnson at Montreal
regulated those before parting with the Six Nat^s seeing
they were fixed to be Neuter while the Rebels were in Canada
and should they keep possession the Ind^ns must fall a
Sacrifice of course but on the Contrary if the former should
be drove out the Ind^ns on Acct. of their depending on Canada
for their Supplies & presents &c must join the Kings side
which accordingly was the Case And Mr. Butler had little
or nothing to do at Niagara hardly any Ind^ns resorting to that
post, Notwithstanding w^ch Mr. Butler & his Coadjutors in Trade
lost no Time to make Money as fast as they could and
made shift to draw largely upon the Commander in
chief for Ind^n Expences tho' no or very little Busi was
carried on with Ind^ns till 77, and their Drafts were but
readily Paid; which laid the Foundation of the enormous
Expences & Imposition upon Government and the other
Posts soon followed the Example. Mr. Claus after making
his Campaign as Superintend^t of the Ind^ns on y^e Exped^n
during w^ch he can make it appear to have been instru-
mental as Matters ~~turned~~ were found to out of saving that little Army
being cut off by the Rebels And the Six Nat^s obliged to join
them afterwards had he not counteracted Mr. Butlers ap-
parent plan of trade & thereby prevented such an Event. After
Brig.

would not disobey it

whereupon Mr. Clauss application for Ind^n Ne-
cessaries on y^e Exped^n
would not give him the
least Assist^ce

& with whom he said he
would find every Article
he wanted for y^e Exped^n
when Mr. Claus met with
Mr. Butler he had not an
article requisite to e-
quip Ind^ns for war but
chiefly Ind^n goods better
calc. for Trade and an
immense quantity of
them. This Butler

our Interest

& w^th out any farther
enquiry tho' they were
the first Ind^n Expences
ever paid by ~~Butler~~ the
chief in Canada though
w^ch were usually sent to
the Comd^r in chief re-
siding at New York and the
Niagara Expences ever
amounted to as many 100
pounds as any of the rest 1000
from

Brigr. St. Legers Retreat to Oswego it was agreed in a coun
of War to descend to Lake Champlain & endeavour join
Genl. Burgoyne at Saraghtoga and Mr. Claus was or
to collect as many Indns. he could at Oswego and on his
Way to Montreal and follow the Army across the Lake which
orders he observed and marched with a Body of 6 Nat:
& Canada Indns. to St. Johns where Sir Guy Carleton
was to whom Mr. Claus communicated his order
upon wch. Sir Guy replied that there was no furth
Service for him in Indn. Affairs that he gave Mr. Butler
the Direction of Indn. Affairs in Col. Johnsons Absence
And he might return to Montreal ~~and~~ as he should s
the Indns. forward under the Command of an other
Officer which was a Capt. Tice who understood not any
of the Indn. Language. Mr. Claus could find by Sir Guys re
manner and other Expressions he made use of that Mr.
Butler had influenced Sir Guy agt. him by mentioning a certain
Discourse he had wth. Mr. Butler at Oswego about Sir Guys
conduct in General in 1775 & in particular the extraordinary
Affair at Longueil & what people said of it in England
by wch. means he got every thing he could desire or wish from Sir Guy to the well
known Cost of Englands Treasury & Mr. Claus in Spite of His
Majestys Recommendation was to have been (made to starve if possible
for applying for the most necessary purchases of Indian
Necessaries on the Expedition wth.out which they could not have
marched and which Mr. Claus was obledged to promise pay
ment for before the Sailing of Londn. fleet, he was flatly de
nied the small Sum of £1500. wch. he was obledged to tak
upon his own Risque & Mr. Butlers Accts. then wch. amounted pe
haps to as many Thousands were overpaid him in a higher Pric
the whole quantity of Goods he produced at Oswego
not amount to £3000. Sterl. wth. such Encouragement
Mr. Butler knew very well how to apply to his ~~Interest~~ Advantage &
the Crown likewise felt it. As to Mr. Butlers ~~his~~ Services they have
general been rather hurtfull to Governmt. from his first
outset for Instance when Capt. Josh. Brant with another
Indn. Officer were sent by Sir Wm. Howe & the Superintendt. in
Autumn 1776. by Land passing into the Six Natns. Country in
order to influence the Indns. in favr. of Governmt. after
Brant had visited and engaged the Six Natns. & their Allies to
espouse the Kings cause ~~which~~ the Rebels being informed of it they
raised a Body of Men of upwards 6 or 800 to meet oppose Brant who
was assembling the Indns. at Oghquago on the Susquehanna
near the Frontiers of the Mohawk River, upon his hearing that the

Rebels

& for he obtained Majrs. Rank who never was in Ensn. in ye Army & in order to compleat a Corps of Rangers of wch. he had raised 15 Men tho his return was 68. and some fictitious officers Names; New Cloathing for ye whole Corps out of the Kings Store, & Indn. presents of Silver &c. in Abundance 75 Puncheons of Rum the most part of wch. was ~~sold~~ converted into Cash & wth. other Advantages sufficient too tedious to mention &

& whereas had Mr. Claus been employed agreeable to His Majs. Intentions he could have prevented all Mr. Butler Extravagancies & saved thousands to Governmt.

Winter & Spring 1777.

4/

Rebels ~~were~~ intended advancing towards him he being destitute
of Ammunition & other Implements ~~he~~ immediately proceeded for Niagara
to procure that Article & summon the Six Nations to
join him, On his Arrival at Niagara & applying for it
to Mr Butler, ~~he~~ that Gent.n felt himself so great that he hard would
know Capt. Brant tho as to Interpreters Rank Brant was
his superior 2 year before, treated wth him but in a cold disdainfull
Manner told him he could give him nothing without
a written order from Authority; Sr Wm [illegible] Dep. Superin-
tend.t not think fit it safe to send papers wth Brant he
having several rebel posts to pass, they ordered a Capt. Tice of the
6 Nat.n Dept to accompany ~~was sent~~ him to ascertain his being
sent by Authority but to no purpose Mr. Butler looking
on Capt. Tice with the same Indifference tho' he knew
him a Capt. in ye Department ~~before~~ and Brant was
obliged to purchase Ammunition &c upon his own Credit
and passing on his Return to the Place where he ex-
pected the Rebels, thro the 6 Nation Country to collect
them according to promise he found them of quite different
Sentiments from their late promises ~~[illegible]~~ as [illegible] it him wch he attributed solely to
[illegible] advising them not to join him as [illegible]
Mr Butlers had not a little followed him; he was
scarce returned to the Susquehanna, ~~and~~ when after making
a scanty distribution of Ammunition among his party

consist.g of upward [illegible] 200.

not hav.g above 200 ... he received a Message from
the Rebel General Harkemer that he wanted to have
a conference with him, Brant knowing himself too

rised for an
of Rebels being

numerous, sent Answer if he would come unarmed
he would speak with him otherwise not, the Genl complied
and they wanted to prevail upon Brant to remain
quiet & neuter in the Quarrel between the King & America
but Brant immediately refused telling them he gave his
Word in England & he would stand to it to the utmost of his
Power when a rebel Col. Kox made some threatening
Expression upon wch Brant gave a Signal & all his
party appeared with Tomyhawks ~~the~~ Gen Harkemer

confusion

apologized for Co. Cox & the whole rebel party sneaked off
and Brant saw himself unable on Acct. of Ammunition
to pursue & attack them; Brant seeing himself thus
treated did not know what part to act to dismiss his party
he must for want of Necessaries for war seeing he could pro-
cure

were them from no other place but Niagara being thus
situated for some time he received Intelligence that an
Expedition was to come from Canada to Oswego in order
to penetrate into the Rebel Country & that Mr Claus was
to have the Command of the Indians, whereupon he
immediately prepared his Party who were bare of
Clothes & Ammunition & reason to expect being attacke
by the way, however they got unmolested to Oswego
abt the same time Mr Claus arrived there to Brant's
great Satisfaction, who supplied him & party agreeable
to his wishes, and Mr Butler arriving at Oswego a
day aftr seemed to be displeased at Brants & party being e
quipped before the 6 Nats who had not acted or ma
a Mile in the Service as yet when the others were
collected & upon actual Duty for 6 or 8 Months before at
same time Mr Butlers Indn Assortments for an Expedition
were so ill calculated & uncomplete that there was
scarce an Article immediately necessary for warriors
among them such as Fusils, Tomyhawks, Knives
Vermilion, Mockinsons &ca but instead of those a parcel
of Silver Trinkets, Ribbonds &ca a vast Quanti
Rum the only Article to obstruct any Indian Excursi
& which Mr Claus on its being shewed him ordered im-
mediately to be concealed before the Arrival of the Six
Nations, but in all Appearance the principal Motiv
of Mr Butler assembling the Indians at Oswe
Trade not knowing that Mr Claus was arriv
England & to have the Command of the Indians,
the Indians that were summoned from Detroit
finding that an Expedition was to be on foot came
Mr Claus in form declaring they were only summ
for a Council & therefore brought only their Pipes of
peace & a few chiefs as deputies from their respective
Nations otherwise they might have come with several
hundreds of stout warrs Mr Butler having appointed
Oswego the Rendezvous of all Indns for that Expedn tho:
was out of the way of the Senecas Cayougas & Onondago
And all those that arrived at Oswego brought Peltry &
Deer skins for Trade wch were publicly bartered for by Mr
Butlers ~~people~~ Servant. Mr Claus finding how Matters were to
go

go on & that Campaign ~~was~~ intended to be spent in Trade and
Drunkenness and ~~that~~ Brigr. St Leger ready ~~was~~ to proceed ~~go~~ for
Fort Stanwix the day following sent an Express to
a place called three Rivers 25. Miles from Oswego
where the Expedition was to pass to stop the Senecas
and others that were coming to Oswego at that place
in order to join & proceed with the Expedition ordering
what Necessaries were left of Mr Butlers Assort-
ment of Merchandize to be brought there & distributed
to them by Mr Butler this was a great Disappoint-
ment to him in so much that he complained of Mr.
Claus to Sr Guy Carleton from Oswego, however as
Matters turned out, that Manoeuvre of Mr Claus was
the Means of defeating the Rebels & saving ~~[illegible]~~ our
small Army from being cut off. ~~The~~ The Six Nats. accor-
dingly were stop'd at 3. Rivers & the Expedition passing them
Mr Claus stop'd & in the strongest Manner recommended
it Mr Butler to follow him with the Senecas & others while he pro-
ceeded with Capt Brant & the rest of the Inds. with the Army ~~and~~ arrived
the 2d Augt [illegible] and the Brigadier invested the Fort wch was nearly
finished and a very formidable regular Square on the
old Fort rebuilt; ~~the next it was summoned & by them an-
swered with Disdain~~ there being between 6. & 700. Men
in it by the report of a Deserter preparations were making
for the Siege; On the 5th Augt were told of a Body of 800
Mohawk River Militia being on their March and the
day before within 40 Miles of us in order to raise the
Blockade in conjunction with the Garrison. That After
noon Mr Butler at last luckily arrived with the Senecas
only abt. 200, the Cayugas still on their way behind
Capt. Brant & party prepared themselves to meet the
rebel reinforcement orders were given for 400. Indns
wch included the Senecas who in the Morng of the 6th
when News was received that the rebels encamped within
10. Miles of us made several disapproving Excuses for
staying in Camp as the rebels might come a different
Way than expected, or perhaps with a friendly Intention
of wch opinion Mr Butler likewise was, but Brant
argued

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argued the Case with them very forcibly and said the party would go by themselves if they would not & Sir Jn.o Johnson &the accordingly marched off with not above 200. Men when abt. 1/4. of an hour after the Senecas stung with ~~jealousy~~ emulous vexation & Jealousy sat out running after the party and overtook them within 5 or 6. Miles of the Camp engag'd [illegible] and soon made to give way pursuing them for several Miles & not 200. Men returned safe.

Had Mr Butlers plan taken place & they gone to Oswego it was impossible for them to join the Expedition by that time, Brants party would have insufficient to attack their Number and upon a Junction with the Garrison our small Army must have been cut to pieces; After this defeat of the rebel Reinforcement the Garrison was summond but they knowing the Insufficiency of our Artillery owing to the chiefly if not entirely to Mr Butlers false intelligence to Sir Guy Carleton abt. the weak State of Fort Stanwix & Garrison, they rejected the Summons & the Siege commenced against a well fortified sod Work with two brass 6 pounders & Cohorns untill the Acct. of Genl. Arnold's approach with heavier Artillery when a Retreat to Oswego was ordered, and Mr Butler had an opportunity to finish trading with the Ind.ns and sent Batt loads of Furrs & Skins to Montreal; the Gains of Peltry Mess.rs Butler & Pollard made from 77 are immense # they were sent home by Mr Butler that Autumn while he applied for a Corps of Rangers raised mostly by his brothers w.ch he obtained by a Beating order & power from Guy to go on & prosper as hitherto

without any stock of their own neither of them being worth sixpence—

Detail of Services of Mr D. Claus from 1755, 1783

-Copy

Quebec 17th Decr 83 -

Sir

I have received your Letter of the - 15th instant, representing the Situation of the Mohawk Indians who have taken Refuge in this Province & who have been under your Direction — I have always Considered the Mohawks as the first Nation deserving the Attention of Government and I have been particularly interested for their Wellfare & Reestablishment. It is therefore with much — pleasure that I find they are so well reconciled to the Situation allotted to them, and you may acquaint the Superintendt that I shall with great Chearfulness afford them the very reasonable Assistance proposed in your Letter and every other in my Power to - facilitate their Settlement where they propose, which I have not a Doubt will turn out a fertile and a happy Retreat for them -

I am &c

Signed Fr H.

1784

Instructions to the Commissioners for Indian affairs

Whereas it is of great importance to the interest safety and happiness of the good people of this state that amity and ~~a~~ mutual ~~good~~ understanding should prevail between them and the Indians resident within ~~the Jurisdiction of~~ this State

And whereas no treaty of pacification has yet been entered into with such of the said Indians commonly called the six nations who during the late war adhered to the King of Great Britain, and that if hostilities between the said Indians and the citizens of this State should be rekindled, the necessary arrangements for the defence of the frontiers would not only be extremely burthensome, but ~~[illegible]~~ from the mode of warfare pursued by the savages, 162 inadequate to full protection against their incursions, and that a war with them would deprive us of the benefit of the fur trade, prevent an extension of our settlements, and add strength to the british province of Canada, and repeated experience having evinced that the savages return as the bounty or the necessity

SCHUYLER PAPERS

of their habitations becomes settled, for these and other reasons of great weight the legislature hath deemed it not only expedient but necessary that a ~~treaty~~ convention should be ~~ordained~~ held with the said Indians and peace ~~be~~ established ~~on~~ principles of mutual convenience

You are therefore without delay to signify to these Indians that you are appointed commissioners on the part of this state with full powers to adjust all differences between them and the people of this State and to require them to meet you, at such place as you shall deem it most for the interest of your constituents to cause the convention to be held and on as early a day as possible, and being formed, you shall ~~declare to them~~ after the ceremonies usual on such occasions — observe to them ~~that the Breach which has so unhappily subsisted between them and us.~~

That altho the path of peace between them and us has so long been obstructed ~~and to be~~ and is so covered with briars and brambles ~~but hardly~~ ~~that it is difficult to find out it~~ as to become almost impassable yet ~~the people of this state~~ this misfortune cannot be imputed to the people of this state, who were willing to ~~keep up~~ preserve that peace and friendship which had from time immemorial been established between our Ancestors; that we took every measure which good will and mutual Interest dictated to prevent you from taking a part in the late war, that after repeated infractions on your part of the promises made in the commencement of the war, we were still willing to forget and to forgive the ~~past~~ Injuries we have sustained from you and to bury the hatchet but the great Spirit who protected us clouded your understandings and made you persevere in the road which led to your ruin. — You have without provocation killed our men our women and Children, and burnt our habitations. You have put us to great expenses in resisting your incursions — The King for whom you fought has at length made peace with us and acknowledged our Independance, and altho he has not made a single stipulation in your favor, yet we are too Generous a people to take all the advantages which the rights of Conquest and the laws of war permit of, we ~~have~~ still reflect with pleasure on the times when our forefathers and Yours were bound to each other by the ties of affection & mutual Interest and altho' It is Just and necessary that You should make compensation for the Injuries by granting a you have committed, yet we do not want to expel you from the Country It is large enough for you and us too and we are therefore directed to offer you Generous terms. They are these

First That you shall deliver without any delay all prisoners of whatever age or sex which are amongst you

Secondly That you ~~shall~~ relinquish ~~all~~ claim to the Country westward and Eastward of the ~~following~~ tract of Country ~~contained~~ within the following lines

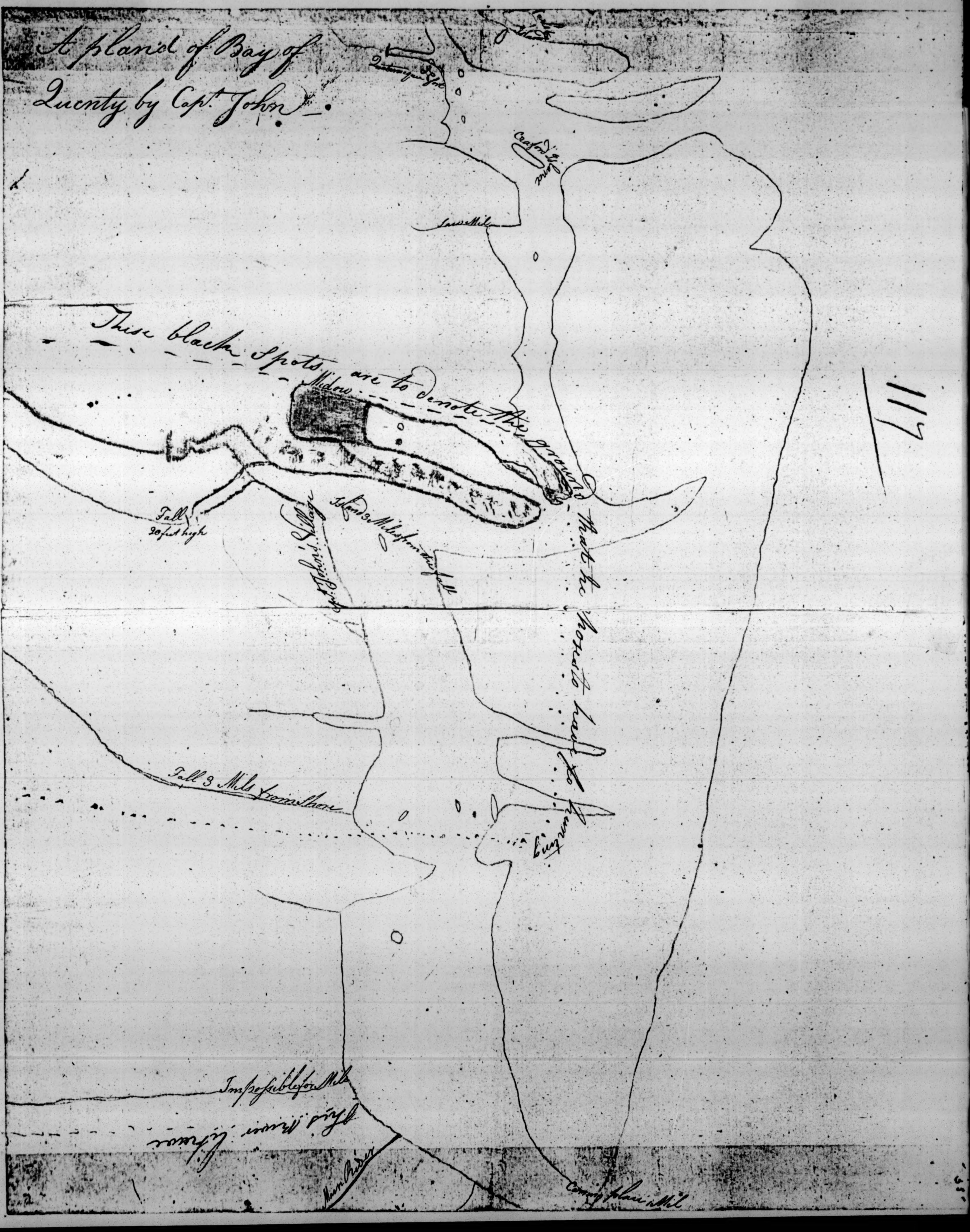
a line drawn from Lake Ontario to the north boundary line of Pensylvania thro a point ~~due East~~ ~~miles~~ from ~~the most easterly inclination of~~ miles ~~distant~~ easterly explain from the most easterly inclination of the Straight of Niagara, and a line parallel to the general course of said strait, and another line from the said lake to the said north boundary and distant always therefrom   miles at right angles

If they will not agree to this proposition, let them declare their intentions, and if it does not differ from your proposition more than to increase the breadth of the last mentioned tract from   miles to   miles you may close with them having previously done every thing in your power to procure a line more favorable to your constituents

But should their proposition be for running more East nearer than   miles from the line nearest said Lake as the same is described in the first proposition, you must then inform the Indians that you cannot go beyond the said   miles which is the ultimatum given you by your Instructions

Draft of Instruct
to Com: for Ind
affairs

1784



A pland of Bay of Quenty by Capt. John

Quintenquen Fort
Island
Crafords Island
Sawe Mil
These black Spots are to denote the Ground that he choses to hault to hunting
Midow
Fall 20 feet high
Capt. John's Village
Island 3 Miles from the fall
Fall 3 Miles from Shore
Impossible for Mil
This River likewise
Main River
Carrying place a Mil

Sp.		Spt	McHenry	Pinckney. on spent		Pinckney	to postpone Pinckney's Reso
Foster	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Long	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Holten	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
King	no	ay	—	no	no	no	ay
Ellery	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Howell	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Cook	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Johnson	no	ay	ay	no	no	no	ay
R Livingston	ay	ay		ay	ay	ay	ay
W Livingston	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Plat	no	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Beatty	ay	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Cadwallader	ay	ay	no	ay	no	no	ay
Stewart	no	ay	no	no	ay	no	ay
Gardner	ay	no	ay	no	no	no	ay
W Henry	ay	no	ay	no	no	no	ay
Bedford			no	ay	ay	ay	ay
McHenry	ay	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
J. Henry	ay	ay	—	no	no	no	ay
Hindman	ay	ay	no	no	no	no	ay
Hardy	ay	ay	no	no	no	ay	ay
Lee	ay	ay	no	ay	ay	ay	ay
Grayson	ay	ay	ay	ay	ay	ay	ay
Wmson	ay	ay	no	ay	no	no	ay
Spaight	ay	no	no	ay	ay	no	ay
Sitgreaves	ay	no	no	ay	ay	ay	ay
Bull	no	ay		ay	ay	ay	no
Pinckney	ay	no		ay	ay	ay	no
			Houstoun	ay	ay	ay	ay

+ and draw for the same on the Commrs. of the Treasury who are hereby directed to pay such Drafts

~~in addition~~ & also to the amount of the goods purchased as above

Sachems and Warriors, deputies from those Indians, who in the late War aſsisted the British Nation —

Attend to the answer which the Commiſsioners for Indian affairs under the United States are going to make, to the Speeches delivered by you, and to the Contents of the paper read by you, as part of the Communication you had to make, with this string we open your Ears & brighten up your understandings that you may distinctly hear & clearly & fully comprehend, the purport of all we shall say. — A string of Wampum —

Your first speaker observed that the Sun had fallen from his place, and that a thick darkneſs had overspread the Earth, that the path of Peace was so overgrown with brush you had found it difficult to penetrate to this place; he acknowledg that Congreſs by their Commiſsioners had desired the Indians not to engage in the War; that this advice had been heeded by the Oneidas & Tuscaroras, that a Cloud having darkned the understandings of the Indians they had paid no attention to the advice, had taken a part against us, that the event of the contest had been in our favor; he added that the English had informed the Indians Peace was established between the United States and them, and that this peace extended to all the Indians who had been opposite to us, and that Congreſs had given them the same information; that this deputation must only be considered as the forerunner or meſsenger of peace, from all the Indians who expected to treat in a bod that agreable to the Antient form, he now plucked the Hatchet out of our Heads, with which the Indians had struck us, buried it, collected our Bones, covered them, as also the ruins of our Buildings, burnt by the Indians least our resentment should rekindle at the sight and he confirmed his word with a Belt. —

Sachems and Warriors of the Deputation before we recapitulate the other speeches we shall answer this, it is true that the Sun has long been obscured to you, that the path of peace has been obstructed & rendered impaſsable, but the Americans have not in the least been the Occasion of this. they wished to maintain a friendly

intercou

intercourse with the Indians, and held a Treaty at Albany for that
purpose in 1775 again in 1776, at both of these, and at every
subsequent one, the Indians solemnly promised strictly to obser
neutrality, which we required of them; In the second Treaty they
made a long apology for the conduct of some of their young Men w
had struck at us at the Cedars and elsewhere, and gave the most
explicit assurances, that they would abide by the engagements they h
made with us, and that we should have no future cause of Complain
but their promises they never meant to fulfil, their lips gave the l
to the sentiments of their hearts, which their barbarous and atroc
conduct soon evinced, and none of the six Nations, except those tru
Men who sit there, the Oneidas & Tuscaroras, fulfilled their en
gagements, these are facts which you know, and are so notorious
that your constituents cannot deny them and thus they have
forsaken the path of peace and not we. — And yet Congress
with a magnanimity and generosity peculiar to a free peopl
are willing to forget the injuries and give peace to the Indians, t
terms have not yet been communicated to us but they will doub
be such as the Indians ought thankfully to accept, if the English
have informed that Indians were included in the peace, which is
concluded between the former and us, they have deceived, the Treaty
does not contain a single stipulation for the Indians, they a
not so much as mentioned in the Treaty, they are therefore left to
settle matters with Congress, the Treaty a copy whereof I now deli
you, & will prove what I say; that Congress gave the same infor
mation as the British, we know it is not true, they only sent word to
the Indians that peace was concluded between America & Great Brita
and recommended that the Indians should refrain from Hostilities an
that they were willing to give them peace, and this Congress did least
the Indians should continue the War and thereby render themselves s
obnoxious as to oblige us to extirpate them, we are happy that they hav
followed their advice, and that you are come the messengers of peace fro
all the Indians as such we make you welcome and are pleased that you
taken the Hatchet from our Heads and from the heads of the Oneidas

and Tuscaroras our Brethren & that you have collected the scattered bones of our friends & covered them; we shall do the like at the proper time that is at a General Treaty, where we sincerely hope all differences will amicably be ajusted.

a Belt.

Sachems and Warriors of the Deputation attend while we recapitulate the substance of what your second speaker advanced, and to our remark on it; he says that some time last summer, two Clergymen arrived at Niagara that they wrote a Letter to Congreſs which they sent by a white man, that the Indians desired this meſsenger who had resided amongst them to enquire the news at Philadelphia, as they had been informed by some they would lose all their Country and others said they would not; "that this meſsenger declared that Congreſs desired him to remain at Philadelphia two days, that Congreſs then informed him, that the six Nations had been bad, they had extinguished all their Antient Council fires around which they and the white people used to meet; that they had Joined in the War with the King who was now conquered, but that Congreſs had nothing to do with Indian Lands; as the whole continent originally belonged to them, that no settlements should be made on their Lands, that the Indians might retain all their property in their own hands, and that Congreſs had wrote to General Schuyler on the subject and referred the Indians to him & delivered the Meſsenger a Belt to confirm their words and to open the path of Peace."

Sachems and Warriors of the Deputation we declare to you in the presence of the Oneidas, the Tuscaroras, and in the presence of the Caghnawaga & St. Francois Indians who now sit round this Council fire that the meſsenger who gave you this information was a lying meſsenger, that

Congreſs has never done any thing more, than to signify the
intention to give peace to all the Indians, within the bou
of the United States on terms of mutual convenience, that
the terms should be communicated in a General meeting, whe
ever the Indians should evince a peaceful diſposition and an
earnest desire to live in friendſhip with the Americans,
for this purpose Congreſs have opened the path of Peace, th
the Indians might have a free intercourse with us and prepare t
[illegible] the important buſineſs, this is all they have done and n
[illegible] more has been communicated to us the Commiſsioners.

[illegible] and Warriors of the deputation as the
[illegible] Interpreter conveyed the substance of the
[illegible] Joseph Brant and as that speech
[illegible] and the translation approved of by on
[illegible] understands the English language well, we shall
our answer to it, without remarking on the speech of your
[illegible] the written speech was directed to General Schuy
[illegible] that he sent an invitation to the Indians to
[illegible] him, the [illegible] once before all the Indians that.

that he never sent an invitation to any of the Indians to meet him, since that sent by Skonondo and Petrus.— In his letter of the 21st of July last, he advised the Hostile Indians to send a deputation to sue for peace and he also advised them, that they should bring with them all the American Prisoners in their poſseſsion, and that if they did this he would use his best endeavours to promote a peace.—

"The written Speech further says we were induced to hold such a Council as the King (meaning as we suppose the King of Great Britain) had disposed our minds to peace, who had been at War, and as We had received several Meſsengers from Congreſs signifyin their intention to make peace with us;" the last reason was a ſuffici One, to induce the Indians to hold a Council for the purpose of an Accommodation, as the intentions of Congreſs proceeded from a generou which the Indians had so wantonly, and without cause made War had no just right to expect, and therefore the first reason ought not to have been aſsigned.— In another part of the Letter the Indians say "Our Deputies at the Council have induced all our Brethren to accede to a peace with you, but upon the particular condition that Congreſs act upon some fixed principle in settling the same and that the terms be such as shall be honourable to both parties, for we & our Brethren do not think we were drunk when we gave our aſsistance to the King, nor do we mean to trifle in adjusting a peace"—

Sachems & Warriors of the deputation attend, the Commiſsioners infor you, and thro' you all the Indians, that Congreſs have always acted upon fixed principles, and just, and generous ones too, of which every transactio with the Indians from the commencement of the last War, to this day affords the clearest testimony.— The Commiſsioners are not authorized to declare, what the terms of peace will be; they will be communicate at a proper time, that is when a General Treaty is held, the conditio doubtleſs will be such as Congreſs have a right to insist upon, and as the Indians out of regard to their future welfare ought to accept, for the principles of Justice have conspicuously marked their meaſu throughout the War.— The Commiſsioners are happy to be inform "that the Indians do not mean to trifle in adjusting a peace" this is a p and a wise resolution, because Congreſs in future will not be trifled with, they will not only insist upon promises from the Indians to abide by their Engagements, but they shall be punctually performed, and faithfully Observed, We shall wave remarking on the reasons aſsigned why these Indians have not complied with the promise contained in their Letter of the 8th. of Septr. but We must observe that General Schuyler was right, when he said he did not know that any terms had been offered the Indians, and we now repeat that altho' Congreſs have signified to the Indians that they would make peace, they have never declared the terms, "nor have they ever sent any person with full power to treat on that Subject", as the Indians say in their Letter of the 8th. of Septr. last, all this must be done at a General Meeting

As the Commiſsioners have always wished that the Indians and Americans should live like Brothers, and have taken much pains to that end; they rejoice that the written Speech declares they will meet us at Allewanta early the ensuing Spring, that Speech and every thing that paſses at this Meeting will be commun to Congreſs who are to direct where the General Meeting will be h it will probably be at Niagara or Detroit, and the Indians will have timely notice given them of the place and time, but th Commiſsioners give it as their decided opinion, that a compleat restoration of all the American prisoners in poſseſsion of the In will be insisted on, as a Preliminary, and that nothing will done at the General Meeting, until that restoration is made We therefore advise that notice should be sent to every Quarte that the Prisoners may not be out of the way.—

In another paragraph of the written Speech the Indians say "We ask the reason why so many of your people, since there hat "been a prospect of peace, have made themselves so busy to explore Country in quest of settlements on our Lands which were ackno ledged to be ours at the Treaty held at Fort Stanwix in the y 1768, we have given them no interruption, but determined th

in

" enquire into the reasons of their Conduct from proper authority.
" let us therefore know wether it is done by the direction of Congreſs, or wether
" they do it of their own accord without any authority, we expect therefore to
" receive an answer in full upon this particular upon our meſsengers return" —

Attend Sachems and Warriors of the Deputation to our answer to this part of the Speech, and you also our Bretheren the Oneidas & Tuscaroras attend, we say we do not know if the people explore the Western parts, of this State, or any other State of the United States, or if they do it by authority, or of their own accord, but we say that the Citizens of the United States have a right to explore every part of the Country within the Limits of the United States, unleſs they are expreſsly forbid by Authority, but they have no right to settle on vacant Lands without permiſsion from proper authority, they have no right to settle in the Oneida & Tuscarora Country, without the leave of those two Nations and none will do it. — It is true that a line of property was settled in 1768, but that is not the buſineſs of the Commiſsioners at this time to say whether this agreement and every other heretofore made is become void or not, by the unprovoked War, which the Indians have waged against the Americans, after they had in the most solemn manner pledged their faith to observe a strict neutrality; this must be determined at the General meeting, proposed to be held, when Boundaries will be established between property to be appropriated to the use of the Indians, and of that for the use of the Americans, and if any white settlers are then found in the Country aſsigned to the Indians, they will doubtleſs be removed, until this is done, we earnestly recommend to the Indians if they have any just cause of Complaint on this subject to particularize the instances and addreſs themselves to Congreſs for redreſs, and not to offer the least violence to peaceful Citizens of the United States in whatever part of the Country they may be found, least it retard the buſineſs of peace making. — The written speech concluded with saying. "We are apprehensive you did not fully understand our Speech which was sent by Skenando & Petrus, it was in the name of the Six Nations and not in the name of any particular party, as it seems you conceived it to be." — The Commiſsioners say altho' it was in the name of the Six Nations, those that sent it had no right to aſsume that name, the Oneidas, & Tuscaroras, two of the six Nations did not join in it, they were here, there was no occasion for them to

speak to us about Peace, they have not been in war with us as
Nations; General Schuyler was therefore right when he addressed his
answer to these Indians of the Six Nations, who sent a Belt & Spee
by Skenando & Peter.

If Col. Morgans Letter & Belt was founded on false
information given by the Messenger, they were right to signify it and to
prevent such impositions in future. We recommend that the Indian
should send written speeches; we daily expect to be Honor'd with the
final determination of Congress on the Subject of Peace and therefore
desire some of you to remain here, by whom we shall communicate wh
our Congress may deliver us, such of You as are inclined to return now
will be furnished with a Copy of our Speech, which we conclude with advi
all the Indians to come to the General meeting with truly pacific d
[illegible] reflecting on the past, the present & the future, and to r
[illegible] Americans in such a manner a
[illegible] and thence we are persuaded all
[illegible] just cause of Complaint
[illegible] be accomodated to the satisfaction of both parties an
harmony and mutual Benefit will result from the peace

A Belt.

True Copy

(Signed) Ph: Schuyler
President of the Board of Commissioners
for Indian Affairs.

Schenectady Janry 1786

[illegible]

[illegible] Royal Artillery [illegible]

[illegible] went through the [illegible]

[illegible]

closed in Sir John Johnson's letter
8. April Read. U. 10. '84
y Committed included in
North's letter of the 28. Apr. 84
32) vol. N.9.—

Copy

General Schuyler's
Speech to the Deputation of the
Six Nations, held at Schenectady
January 1784.

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Lachine Jan.y 8th 1784 — 108

Tyadattegen Ne Gorah |

Onea|Satthondeh|Nonwe|Waghsattyeroh|keatho|=
yaggwe|Titsideron|Skeanea|kaadi|Sennonghtonnyonhets=
tsiwaghsattyeroh|keayahgwe|Onea|Wahonnisse|—
Shiyagweanonghdonnyon|ohkethone|Shaghsiron|onea| 21
Skeanea|Sonton|Ethone|kaadi|Shiyononghwahde|
nongwanigonra|Shegon|nonwa|keatho|nihaha=
wise|yawegh|Aghsadahgon|thiyagweaderon|
ichea|Neok|ne yongwarhare|ne|kaghsgwanigongh=
Satogeaghste|osagwaghtorighwiyo|Aondaghseweanin
negeane|ne ne|ayongwanigonghrayeadane|ne geane 18
Saton|keawagennhe|Shegon|tsyoriwat, yodattenron|
Denharighhotarighsi|Ne Gorahgowa|ne kaad~~[illegible]~~=
gwaneghrahgwaghs|Waswattyeroh|Onea|Saghthagoghe=
hwa|Ne Gorah|Raongweta|neyontstha|Ateriyoghsera=
Onen|Deaghnon|Waaton|tsiyongwatthonde|onen| 21
roghdentyon|Ne Rayadagweniyo|Onwanonghsishon|
Shaniadaradi|Ware|Sookasane|Rowayenneadaon|
tsineayawea|Ne Attogea|Radighhawe|Ongwehonwegh
Serogwegon|Ne tsyoriwat|konnon|neyagh hotthe

16 Conn

H

theahonea | Neonsaghshagoghkwa | ne Rastogea |
ne kaadi | Waghhonnitya | saton | yonge
yononghwakte | nonga anigonra | tsasheanea |
santon | thigaade | Adeheaghsera | yongwaryoghs–
yaghsegea | Deyakgweghne | Waonkhisheani | okhonea |
tsiniyongwanigonghraghniron | tsiyongwaghsgeaon–
geghte | Negaadi | Wahonne | Dagwanigongonghra–
togeaghe | Onea | Tookat | honise | Onwa | enyagwa–
tyeroh | hathonghtte | yenghse | ichea | ni | ne Deyagwa–
righhogea | yorighwaghniron | yongwatattenjough–
riston | saetho | Ne enyongwaryo | tsieyongwa–
righhondi | ne Gorahgowea | Noh nisenenwato | neatigh–
satonnege | Yagwearon | haadi | yorighwaghsnorean–
Dagwanigonghratogeaghe | yoweyenston | Okeaton –
Deweghniserayen | Ayongwaderyeadaraye | Hogaat–
Nongea | Deyagwatyaserne | Nongwaghsotsherashongea
Tsikarighhonnigh | yagh | Deyawegh | Kaghrgaraghrori–
yoyweyenston | Segea | ne | okhonen tsinayongwaghsen–
keahatty | tsiniyagwaghrongaghsgwe | ne Shondayon–
deriyo | Etho!

Wahyaton | John Deserontyon

Gorah | Shottitsy | Swanne |

Translation of Indian document, on page 3,
Vol. 4, 'Claus Papers'.

Lachine, Jan'y 8th 1784.

Brother Governor,

You will be surprised to hear that we are about to be at your place. Do not be disturbed because we are coming. We have been thinking for a long time, ever since you said that peace was restored, and our minds, then and even now, were in pain because we have been kept living under a shadow (secret). We are expecting for something definite and true to come from you, so that we could understand the meaning of what you said to us last summer.

There is another matter remaining that our King should disentangle. We are amazed and taken by surprise, at his taking away the weapons of war from his men. We have also heard that Superintendant Sir John Johnson is leaving for across the sea. ~~he said nothing about taking~~ Although he has made arrangements for all the Indians who carried axes, he said nothing about taking away his axes from them. That is the reason why we say our minds are in pain, it is because has been made. We do not think they have beaten us, our minds are still strong and determined to carry on the war. The disgrace is almost killing us. That is why we want you to tell us something definite and true. Perhaps you too, to our surprise, might go into hiding. We warriors ("De ga ri-hó gen") have steadfastly set our minds to fight to the end; we are joined with the King, but you can withdraw if you like. We have to say to you that you must immediately set our minds in ~~for~~ certainty by telling us something definite. It is only but courteous that it should be made known to us these things a few days ahead. Perhaps we should double up (buried) with our late grand parents, since you ignore us. It is but courtesy for you to tell us now what is being done as it was done when the war began.

I, the writer, John De se ron tyon

To Governor, "Sho tsi tso wa ne"
(Col. Daniel Claus)

Translation of a letter in Mohawk on page 3, Vol.4, 'Claus Papers'.

Lachine; Jan'ry 8th, 1784.

Brother Governor,

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I, the writer, John De se ron tyon

To Governor, "Sho tsi tso wa ne"
(Col. Daniel Claus)

Brother Gora 10 La Chine Janry 8th 1784

We beg you will listen, and hope you'l not take our coming here amiss. It is a long time ago since You told Us it was peace, which troubled our Mind very much, since which we have been kept in the dark; expecting from time to time that News to be confirmed to us with Certainty & Truth for you told us then (which was last Spring) that it wanted only one thing to confirm it, meaning the Definitive Treaty to be signed by the King & the respective Powers. Now we were not a little surprized & when we in ye Spring first heard that the Kings people were reduced & disarmed, next that Sir John Johnson alias Owenagheshon was gone for England, he has no Stranger that all the Kings Indn Allies have still hold of the War Ax, but in that case it is hard that nothing is said about its being taken from them for which reason we say that our Minds are troubled besides we are [illegible]amed to Death for we dont consider ourselves conquered and our Warriors Spirits are still strong & firm, wherefore we would be glad to know the Certainty of the Matter now. Perhaps you will likewise be presently gone, but we the Mohawks are fully

determined

The Mohawk Indns
Speech to Col. Claus
4. Janry 1784

determined

11 Jan 1784

Sachems and warriors, deputies from those Indians, who in the late war assisted the British nation,

Attend to the Answer which the Commissioners for Indian affairs under the United States are going to make, to the speeches delivered by you and to the contents of the paper read by you as part of the communication you had to make. — With this string we open your ears, and brighten up your understandings that you may distinctly hear, and clearly and fully comprehend the purport of what we shall say

1 String of Wampum

Your first speaker observed, that the sun had fallen from his place, and that a thick darkness had overspread the earth — that the path of peace was overgrown with brush you had found it difficult to penetrate to this place

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

he acknowledged that Congress by their commissioners had advised the Indians not to engage in the war, that this advice had been backed by the Oneidas & Tuscaroras.—that a cloud ~~had~~ having darkened ~~their~~ understandings of the indians they had paid no attention to the advice, had taken a part against us, and that the event of the contest had been in our favor— he added that the English had informed the indians peace was established between the united states and them, And that this peace extended to all the indians who had been opposed to us and that Congress had given them the same information that this deputation must only be considered as the fore runners or messengers of peace from all the Indians who expected to treat in a body

—That agreeable to antient form he now plucked the hatchet out of our heads with which the Indians had struck us, ~~buried~~ buried it, ~~collected~~ collected our bones, covered them, as also the ruins of our buildings burnt by the Indians, least our resentment should rekindle at the sight and he confirmed his words with a belt.

Sachems & warriors of the deputation before we recapitulate the other speeches we shall answer this, — It is true that the sun has long been obscured to you that the path of peace has been obstructed and rendered impassable but the Americans have not in the least been the occasion of this, they wished to maintain a friendly intercourse with ~~you~~ ~~they~~ the Indians, they held a treaty at Albany for that purpose in 1775: again in 1776, at both of these and at every subsequent one, the Indians solemnly promised—

strictly to observe that neutrality, which we required of them.- In the second treaty they made a long apology for the conduct of some of their young men who had struck us at the Cedars and Elsewhere, and gave the most explicit assurances that they would abide by the engagements they had made with us, and that we should have no future cause of complaint, but these promises they never meant to fulfil, their lips gave the lie to the sentiments of their hearts, which their barbarous and atrocious conduct soon evinced and none of the six nations except those worthy men who sit there, the Oneidas & Tuscaroras. fullfiled their engagements These are facts which you know and which are so notorious that of one entitlements cannot deny them and thus they have obstructed the path of peace and not we, — And yet Congress with a magnanimity & a gene:rosity peculiar to a free people, are willing to forbear to resent ~~give you peace, the terms not communicated~~ forget the injuries of war and give peace to the Indians, the terms have not yet been communicated to us, but they will doubtless be such as ~~you may~~ the Indians ought thankfully to accept. ~~we are pleased that you have~~ If the English have informed ~~you~~ that the Indians were included in the peace which is concluded between the former and us, they have deceived, the treaty does not contain a single stipulation for the indians, they are not even so much as mentioned. they are therefore left to settle matters with Congress. ~~they~~ treaty. a copy whereof I now deliver you.

will prove what I assert. That Congress
gave the same information as the
British, we know is not true, they only
sent word to the Indians that peace was
concluded between America & Great
Britain, and recommended that the
Indians should refrain from hostilities and
that they were willing to give them peace
and this ~~they~~ Congress did least ~~you~~ the Indians should
continue the war and thereby render
themselves so obnoxious as to oblige us
to extirpate them, - we are happy that
~~you~~ they have ~~taken~~ followed their advice and that
you are come the messengers of peace
from all the Indians, as such we make
you welcome and are pleased that you
have taken the hatchet from our heads
and from the heads of the Oneidas & Tuscarora
our brethren, and that you have
collected the scattered bones of our friends
& covered them: we shall do the like

" [illegible] at the proper time, that is at
a General treaty, where we sincerely hope
all differences will be amicably adjusted.

a Belt

Sachems & warriors of the deputation attend
while we recapitulate the substance of what
your second speaker advanced, and to our
remark on it. He says that some time last
summer two Clergymen arrived at Niagara
that they wrote a letter to Congress, which they
sent by a white man, that the Indians directed
this messenger who had resided amongst them
to enquire the news at Philadelphia as they
had been informed by some they would lose
all their country, and others said they would not
that this messenger declared that Congress
desired him to remain two days at Philadelphia
that Congress then informed him "that the Six
" nations had been bad, they had extinguished
" all the ancient council fires around which
" they and the white people used to meet
" that they had joined in the war with the King
" who was now conquered, but that Congress had
" nothing to do with any of the Indian lands
" as the whole continent originally belonged to

": that no settlements should be made on
" their lands. that the Indians might retain
" thus all their property in their own Lands
" and that Congress had wrote to General
" Schuyler on this Subject and referred the
" Indians to him and delivered the Messenger
" a Belt to confirm their words and to open
" the path of peace" Sachems and warriors
of the deputation we declare to you in the
presence of the Oneidas, the Tuscaroras, the
[illegible] in the presence of those of the Caughnawaga
& St Francois Indians who now attend
this council fire. that the Messenger who
gave this Information was a lying
Messenger, that Congress has never done
any thing more than to signify their
Intention to give peace to all the Indians
within the limits of the United States, on terms of mutual
convenience, that these terms would be
communicated in a General meeting
whenever the Indians should evince
a ~~[illegible]~~ pacific disposition and un-

Earnest desire to live in friendship with the Americans. For this purpose Congress had opened the path of peace that the Indians might have a free intercourse with us and prepare to adjust their important business. This is all they have done and nothing more has been communicated to us the Commissioners—

Sachems & warriors of the deputation. As the speech of your third speaker conveyed the substance of the written speech signed by Joseph Brandt, and as that speech has been translated and the translation approved of by one of you who understands the english language well. We shall confine our answer to it and waive remarking on the speech of your third speaker. The written speech is directed to General Schuyler, and it asserts that he sent an Invitation to the Indians to meet him,- he has once before told the Indians that he has never sent an invitation to any of these Indians to meet him ~~unt~~ since that sent by Skenando & Petrus. Principals of none

In his letter of the 25 of July last he Advised ~~that~~ hostile Indians to send a deputation to sue for peace, — and he also advised that they should bring with them all the American prisoners in their possession and that if they did this, he would use his best endeavours to promote a peace. — — the written speech further says " we were induced to hold such a council as " the king (meaning we suppose the King of great Britain) had disposed our minds to peace " who had been at war, and as we had " received several messages from Congress " signifying their intention to make peace " with us" the last reason was ~~a good one~~ a sufficient one to induce the Indians to hold a council for the purpose of an Accommodation as ~~it was~~ the intention of Congress proceeded from a Generosity in ~~Congress~~ which ~~a people~~ the Indians who had so wantonly and without the least cause made war had no just right to expect — ~~and it might induce~~ ~~them the~~ and therefore the first reason

ought not to have been assigned —
In another part of the letter the Indians say
"our deputies at the council have induced
"all our brethren to accede to a peace with you"
"but upon the particular condition ~~that Congress~~
"that congress act upon some fixed principle
"in settling the same, and that the terms be
"such as shall be honorable to both parties
"for we and our brethren do not think
"we were drunk when we gave our assistance
"to the Kings, nor do we mean to trifle in
"adjusting a peace" Sachems and warriors
of the deputation attend, the Commissioners
inform you and thro you all the Indians
that Congress have always acted upon
fixed principles, and just and generous
ones too, of which every transaction with
the Indians from the commencement of the
last war to this day affords the clearest
Testimony. The Commissioners ~~do not know~~
~~what the terms will be~~ are not authorized
to declare what the terms will be. They
will be communicated at the proper

time that is when a General treaty is held, ~~but the Commissioners know that Congress will~~ the conditions will be doubtless such as Congress have a right to insist upon and as the Indians out of regard to their future welfare ought to accept for the principles of Justice have conspicuously marked the measures of Congress throughout the war. - The Commissioners are happy to be informed "that the Indians do not mean to trifle in adjusting a peace" - this is a prudent and a wise resolution, because Congress will not in future be trifled with, they will insist not only on promises from the Indians to abide by their engagements, but that they shall be punctually performed, and faithfully observed ;

In answer to the next part of the written Speech the Commissioners observe that when Gen. Schuyler

~~wrote you that he did not know~~
~~that Congress had offered terms of peace~~
~~to the Indians he was right, he was right~~
~~he repeats it again, — nor has any person~~
~~been sent, as the Indians say, "with full~~
~~"power to treat on that subject" nothing more~~
~~has been done than we have already taken~~
~~notice of —~~

we shall waive remarking on the reasons
assigned why these Indians have not ~~com~~
complied with the promise contained in
their letter of the 8th of Sept. but we must
observe that Gen. Schuyler was right when
he said he did not know that any terms
had been offered the Indians and we now
repeat that altho Congress has signified
to the Indians that they would make peace
they have never declared the terms, nor
have they ever sent any person "with full
"power to treat on that subject" as the
Indians say in their letter of the 8th of
Sept. last — all this must be done at the
General Meeting

The offers contained in the written speech

~~Desirous to promote your happineſs~~

As the commiſsioners have always wished ~~much~~ that the Indians ~~might live~~ and Americans should live like brothers and have taken much pains to that end. they rejoice that the ~~letter~~ written speech declares they will meet us at all events early the coming Spring. that speech and every thing that paſses at this meeting will be communicated to Congreſs. who are to direct where the General meeting shall be held. it will probably be at Niagara or detroit and the Indians will have timely notice given them of the place and time. that the commiſsioners give it as their decided opinion that a complete restoration of all the ~~prisoners~~ Americans in poſseſsion of the Indians will be insisted on as a preliminary and that nothing will be done at the General meeting until that restoration is made, we ~~propoſe~~ advise that notice should be sent to every quarter to take prisoners may not be out of the way —

In another paragraph of the written speech the Indians say "we ask the reason why so many
" of your people since there hath been a prospect
" of peace have made themselves so busy to
" explore the country in quest of settlements
" on our lands, which were acknowledged to be
" ours at the treaty held at Fort Stanwix in
" the year 1768 — we have given them no
" interruption but determined to enquire into
" the reason of their conduct from proper
" authority let us therefore know whether it is
" done by the direction of Congress or whether
" they do it of their own accord without
" any authority we expect therefore to receive
" an answer in full upon this particular
" when our messengers return."

Attend Sachems & warriors of the deputation to our answer to this part of the speech and You also our Brethren of Oneidas & Tuscaroras attend, we say that we do not know of the people who explore the western ~~country~~ parts of this state or ~~of the~~

any other state or of the united states, do it by authority, or of their own accord, but we say that the Citizens of the united states have a right to explore every part of the Country within the limits of the united states unless they are expressly forbid by authority but they have no right to settle on vacant lands without permission from proper authority they have no right at all to settle in the Oneida and Tuscarora country without the leave of those two nations, and none will do it — it is true that a line of property was settled in 1768 &c but that it is not the business of the commissioners at this time to say whether that agreement and every other heretofore made is become void or not by the ~~unpro~~ unprovoked war which the Indians have waged against the Americans after they had in the most solemn manner pledged their faith to observe a strict neutrality — This must be ~~adjus~~ determined at the General meeting proposed to be held when boundaries will be established

between property to be appropriated
to the use of the Indians, and that for the
use of the Americans white settlers
are then found in the country assigned to
the Indians they will doubtless be removed,
until this is done we earnestly recommend
to the Indians if they have any Just
cause of complaint on this subject, ~~[illegible]~~
~~as they have ever done~~ to particularize
the instances, and address themselves to
Congress for redress, and not to offer the
least violence to peaceable citizens of the
united states in whatever part of the
country they may be found, least it
should retard the business of peace making

The written speech concludes with saying "we
" are apprehensive you did not fully under-
" stand our speech which we sent by Skenando
" a Elder it was sent in the name of the whole
" Six nations and not in the name of any parti-
" cular party as it seems you conceived it to be"

The Commissioners say that altho it was
sent in the name of these six nations

those who sent it had no right to assume
that Name; the Oneidas and Tuscaroras two
of the Six nations did not Join in it. they were
here; there was no Occasion for them to
Speak to us about peace, they have not
been at war with us as ~~nations~~ General
Schuyler was therefore right when he
addressed his Answer "to those Indians
"of the six nations who sent a belt and speech
"by Skenandoo and Peter"

If Colo: Morgans letter and Belt was founded
on false information given ~~to the~~ by the Messenger Indians
they were right to signify it. to prevent
such ~~future~~ impositions in future ~~it will~~
we recommend that the Indians should
send written Speeches. —

~~Belt~~

We ~~have~~ now ~~finished our Answer and~~
~~shall conclude with~~ informing you that
~~afresh~~, we daily [illegible]
with the final determination of
Congress on the subject of peace &

therefore desire some of you to remain here, by whom we shall communicate whatever &c. &c.

Such of you as incline to return now will be furnished with a copy of our Speech which we conclude with advising all the Indians to come to the General Meeting with truly pacific dispositions, reflecting on the past, the present and the future, and to regulate their conduct with respect to the Americans in such a manner as not to afford fresh cause of complaint and then we are persuaded all matters will be accommodated to the satisfaction of both parties, and Harmony and mutual benefits will result from the Peace.

Schenectady 11 Jan: 1784

[illegible]
P. Schuyler Presid

17[illegible]
Articles
Indians
Signed
P. Schuyler

Niagara January 14th 1784.

Saghyatonghsera | Raktsi | Sholsikowane | Koragh | Gengayen | Waghsaronge | Agwagh | Ese | Kewagadanghwen | Ponigh | Ogeghre | Aaghsheyan | Radikshanegonagh | Holy Bible Aghsengh | e Vigonagh | Yagh | Deganagere | negenthogh | ad. Niagara Newagarighhonni | Ogeghre | Ise | Aaghsheyan | Kaghyatonghsera | Dogenghti Asegengh | Onen | Agwagh | ratiweyen Degh | Tsironwadirighhonnyenni | Dyorhenshaga | June 25th 1783 Etho | ne Nighhonadaghsawe | Ne Bible Dyotgongh | Rondenyendenghs |

Niyatewenghni seragegh |

A gwagh | Eso | rotshennonnigh | Nene
Shagorighhonnyenni | Waghhenron
ne Shagorighhonnyenni | Agwagh yoghs
nore | Waghhadiweyendeghdane | Yogh
serad | nok Deweghnidaregh | Dsinagh
he | Thighhonwadirighhonnyenni | Etho |

Ryaatgonnonghweraton | Raktsi |
Goragh | Agwegongh | Dsisewanongh. 20
Sote | waadgwanonweron | Agwegon | nis
gennen | Dsiyongwanonghsote | Gheyen
hogonha | Oni | Ratsighhenghsdatsigh |
Oni | Yatthighsagwanonghronghgwanyon |
Ayawen | Skennen | Thahetyonnhege | Roya
ner · Niyoh | hendhaweronghhatye | kaok |
nonwegh · Niweghniserayen | Dentsidewatasgon |
Etho | Roktsi |

Twaakyaten (David Ceragegte

To

Colonel Claus

Thodsikowane Raoghyatonsera

@ Montreal

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

from Revd. [illegible]ghle
Niagara 14 [illegible] 1784—

Translation of a Letter, as mentioned on Page 8,
Vol. 4. '*Claus Papers*'

Niagara, January 14th, 1784.

Your letter, my elder brother, Daniel Claus, Governor.

This is what you will hear from me. We are very much in need of Holy Bible, and there are none at Niagara, so will you send three to the children. They are quite proficient in their learning of the English language. They began on June 23rd 1783 to learn the Bible every day, and the teacher is well pleased with them, and said, they learn quick. That is why you might give them the three Holy Bibles. One year and two months since they started learning.

I send my compliments to you, my elder brother, the governor, and to all your household, my children and the Minister also send their compliments. May we all be in good health, Lord God be willing, when some day we shall see one another again.

That is all, my elder brother,
I the writer
David Oseragegh te

Translation of a letter in Mohawk on page 5,
Vol. 4. Claus Papers.

Niagara, January 14th, 1784.

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I send my compliments to you, my elder brother, the Governor, and to all your household; my children and the Minister also send their compliments. May we all be in good health, Lord God be willing, when some day we shall see one another again.

That is all, my elder brother,
I the writer

David O se ra gegh te

Albany Jan. 11th 1784

Sir

The deputation of Indians from the late hostile tribes having represented to me that they had matters of importance to communicate and that they wished to return to Niagara without delay, Mr. Duer accompanied me to Schenectady where they spoke to us and delivered a letter signed Joseph Brant, the speeches they made are substantially contained in our answer which I do myself the honor to inclose to your Ex: together with ~~copy~~ a translated Copy of Brants letter — previous to our answer I had a confidential communication made me by one of the deputies, ~~[illegible]~~ an Oneida whom I formerly sent to Niagara with secret proposals to the Indians and whose mission being discovered by the English he was confined for 150 days in the black hole and then let out on condition of remaining there and taking a part against us) he informed me that the Indians ~~did not expect to be~~ expected Congress would take a considerable part of their country, that they were under great apprehensions of being deprived of the whole, and had it in contemplation to renew hostilities on the meeting of Congress, but that Brant influenced as he supposed by the British ~~[illegible]~~ had prevailed on them to speak in a firm tone and to claim that the line of property established in 1768 should be

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

the boundary – advised that we should ~~treat~~ not treat them with any condescension. – His information may ~~be~~ probably be true, but independently of that, ~~[illegible]~~ conceived it highly necessary ~~them~~ not to countenance the assertion they made that Congress had offered to ~~give~~ let them keep all the country, and also to insinuate that we deemed all former contracts at an ending. I am persuaded that in any future transaction with the Indians it will be proper to hold up that they have forfeited all right to the country they inhabit. If they find that we appear in the least apprehensive of them they will rise in their demands and give us more trouble. – Altho' we could have wished ~~to have~~ that a meeting more early than we shall be able to take possession of Niagara &c was held with them. – yet as they wanted the meeting to be held as they expressed it "some where between us and you" we thought it necessary to counteract the idea they meant to ~~give~~ convey by that quoted expression, by declaring that it would probably be held at Niagara or detroit, and indeed I think it should be at either of these places or else at Philadelphia or Albany, ~~and not at any place~~

Albany January 15th 1784.

Sir

The deputation from the late hostile tribes of Indians, which arrived on the 11th of last month, having signified that they had matters of importance to communicate, wished for an interview, and to return to Niagara as soon as might be. Mr. Dow accompanied me to Schenectady on the 8th instant they made some speeches and delivered us a written one; the former are substantially contained in our answer, which with a translated copy of the latter I have the honor to transmit your Excellency.—

Previous to our Answer I had a private conference with one of the deputation, a refugee from the Oneidas and who is exceedingly anxious to return to his former place of abode, a man of sense and sobriety he assured me that the Indians in general were sincerely disposed to peace, but they expect to lose a great part of their country; that at the meeting at Sandusky it was proposed to address Congress in very submissive terms. but that Capt. Brant, whom he supposes to be influenced by the british in whose pay he is, advised them to speak in a high tone. that if they did not Congress would imagine that the Indians had lost all hope, and would oblige them to retire to the farther lakes.— that they ought to claim the lines established at Fort Stanwix as the future boundary between them and us, and not suffer any persons to explore their country. that at any rate if Congress was too hard upon them, they would meet with a welcome reception from the King their father,— and he advised that the prisoners should not be sent this fall.— Congress will please to observe that we promised this man, that he should not be divulged.— and will readily perceive the reasons that led us to mention Niagara or Detroit as the places where the General meeting would probably be held.—

I believe it would be prudent not to lose any time in announcing the time and place for the treaty to be held that the indians may have no excuse for not punctually attending.

Not having received any money for some years past, to defray the incidental expenses of the

Indian department, and having disbursed my own
I would wish Congreſs to order an advance of four or
five hundred dollars on account to Mr Dow who
has hitherto kept the accounts—

I have the honor to be with
great regard and Esteem

Sir

Your Excellency's

most obedient Servant

Ph: Schuyler

His Excellency Thomas Mifflin Esq President of Congreſs

To Thomas Mifflin Esqr.
President of Congreſs.

Resolved, That the Resignation of Brig^{r} Genl^{l} Armand be accepted.

Resolved, That Congress entertain a high and grateful sense of the many signal services rendered by B. Gen: Armand in the course of the late war, and that they request him to receive this public testimony of their entire approbation of his conduct as a tribute justly due to his distinguished merit.[1]

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1784.

Six states only attending; viz. Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pensylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and from the State of New Hampshire, Mr. [Abiel] Foster; from Massachusetts, Mr. [George] Partridge; from New Jersey, Mr. [John] Beatty; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase; the President adjourned Congress till ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1784.

Six states only attending: viz. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of New Hampshire, Mr. [Abiel] Foster; from Rhode Island, Mr. [David] Howell; from New Jersey, Mr. [John] Beatty; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from South Carolina, Mr. [Richard] Beresford; the President adjourned Congress to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and from the State of Rhode Island,||

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[1] This report, in the writing of John Beatty, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 25, II, folio 337. The indorsement states that it was read on January 30, and on this day referred to Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Jacob] Read and Mr. [Edward] Hand.

On this day, according to the indorsement, was read a letter from Governor George Clinton, dated January 31, regarding garrisons for the western posts. It was referred to Mr. [Arthur] Lee, Mr. [Roger] Sherman and Mr. [Jacob] Read, who reported February 23. See *Post* April 3.

Mr. [William] Ellery‖; from New Jersey, Mr. [John] Beatty, and from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Jacob] Read and Mr. [Edward] Hand, to whom was re-committed a report on a letter of 22 January, from Brigadier-General Armand, and a letter from the honorable the Minister of France,

The Committee consisting of [Mr. Hugh Williamson, Mr. Jacob Read and Mr. Edward Hand] to whom were referred letters from the Minister of France, from Br Genl. Armand ~~and from Mr. General Duportail~~ with sundry other papers requesting that promotion may be granted to certain foreign officers, beg leave to report that from the letters and papers in their hands, it appears that during the session of the late Congress and before the resignation of the Comr in Chief applications had been made by the minister of France in favour of Lieuts. Le Roy and Marcellin, and by General Armand in favor of Captains De Birt and Le Brun and of Lieuts. Verdier and Fontivieux, ~~that on the sixth of November, an application was made by Major General Du Portail in favor of Captain Castaign his Aid de Camp who had served with him during the sieges of Chas. Town and York without obtaining any special promotion,~~ and that on the 19th of Nov. last Captain Houdin had petitioned for promotion, his request being supported by certificates from the Commander in Chief and sundry other general officers. It further appears that the gentlemen referred to during several years active service here, acquired the reputation of vigilant and good officers. That about the time in which these applications were made, sundry other foreign officers were promoted whose claims and services were similar to those of the officers just mentioned, whence it is apprehended that as the applications were made in due time and while those officers ~~in general~~ were in service, their want of success, which appears to have been accidental may bear a construction unfavourable to the character of those officers, when they return to their native Country, wherefore your Committee submit the following resolve:

That the Commissions of Major by Brevet be issued to Capt. De Bert, Capt. Le Brun ~~Capt. Castaign~~ and Capt. Ml G. Houdin, and the Commissions of Captains by Brevet be issued to Lieuts. Verdier, Lieut. Fontivieux Lieut. Le Roy and Lieut. Marcellin.

~~Major De Brahm who has served near six years as a major in the Corps of Engineers, having represented that his leave of absence from the service of his Prince the Elector of Thiers did not extend beyond the continuance of the war in America, and requested such marks of attention as have been shown to other foreign officers in like circumstances,~~

~~*Resolved*, That the Commission of Lt. Col. by Brevet be granted to Ferdd J. S. de Brahm, and that he be informed by the Under Secretary at War that his farther services to the U. S. are dispensed with.~~[1]

Resolved, That the commissions of major by brevet, be issued to Captains De Bert, Le Brun ~~Castaigne~~ and M. G. Houdin; and the commissions of captain by brevet, be issued to Lieutenants Verdier, Fontivieux, Le Roy and Marcellin.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight and Mr. [James] Tilton, to whom was referred a letter from Major F. J. S. de Brahm,

The Committee consisting of Mr [Edward] Hand, Mr [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, and Mr [James] Tilton to whom was recommitted a letter of the 29 Decr 1783 from Major de Brahm praying that a sum sufficient to defray the expence arising from his stay in Philadelphia and that of his passage to Europe may be granted him on account of his pay, &c., and applying for promotion, Report that his request as far as it respects an advance of money has been complied with by a resolution of Congress of the 22 January, 1784.

On his application for promotion, your committee report, that Major de Brahm has served in the rank of Major from the 11 February, 1778, and that in their opinion the indulgence which has been generally granted to other Foreign officers, ought to be extended to Major de Brahm. They therefore submit the following resolution.

Resolved, That a brevet commission of lieutenant colonel, be issued to Major de Brahm, of the late corps of engineers, and that he be informed that his farther services are dispensed with.[1]

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 25, II, folio 335.

Ordered, That the order of the day for electing an under secretary, to take charge of the papers in the office for foreign affairs, be postponed to Tuesday next.

The Committee consisting of Mr [William] Ellery, Mr [John] Beatty and Mr [Abiel] Foster to whom the letter of the Superintendent of Finance of the 16th January, 1784, respecting a claim of D. Sprout for Money advanced to the Naval prisoners with its enclosure was referred, report,

That if any supplies were furnished by David Sprout to any citizens of the United States while they were prisoners to the British during the late War, at the request of States to which they belonged, or at the request of such citizens; to such States or citizens he should apply for compensation; but as it appears from his letter that no public charge was ever intended to be made by him, the United States in Congress assembled are not accountable.[2]

Extract of instructions from the general Assembly of Pennsylvania to their Delegates in Congress dated Decr 9th 1783:

"This state as a Member of the republic of the United States has ever considered its immediate interest but in subordination to that of the great whole, and as national honor is of the first consideration, this house cannot be too solicitous that all engagements to the public creditors of every species and particularly the army who have so distinguished a claim to our esteem and gratitude, should be faithfully performed. They are therefore of opinion that the requisitions of Congress upon the states for funds, if yet insufficient, should be extended till they are fully commensurate to this object; and that the business of setting off the lands designed by Congress for our line should be expedited, and the allotment of them in the vicinity of their other lands granted by this state requires your particular attention it being considered by them as an essential point.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 19, II, folio 21. Armand's letter is in No. 164, folio 497. On January 22 it was referred to Mr. [John] Beatty, Mr. [Edward] Hand and Mr. [James] Tilton, and recommitted at some later day.

[2] This report, in the writing of Abiel Foster, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 19, V, folio 381. The indorsement states that it was read this day and on February 11, 1784, referred to Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight and Mr. [James] Tilton. See *post,* May 3.

Certain measures now pursuing by some European states having a tendency materially to injure the general trade of America the attention of this house is naturally turned to the affairs of Commerce and herein are struck with an apparent defect in the constitution of Congress for as the local exercise within the states, of the powers of regulating and controlling trade, can result only in discordant systems productive of internal jealousies and competitions, and illy calculated to oppose or counteract foreign measures, which are the effect of an unity of Council; this house are clearly of opinion that the individual as well as general good will be best consulted, by relinquishing to Congress all these separate and independant powers,

And this house are willing and desirous on the part of Pennsylvania to concur in substantiating this idea, by the necessary legal acts.

Another object of national consideration has been the establishment of a mint, and this house are desirous, your abilities should be employed to carry that useful design into effect."

Submitted by

Thomas Mifflin.
John Montgomery.
Edw^d Hand.

Annapolis, 5^th Febuary 1784.[1]

[Motion of Mr. Jacob Read.]

Resolved, That the deputies from the late hostile Tribes of the Six Nations now assembled at be informed by the Commissioners for Indian affairs, that Congress are well pleased with their visit and accept it as a mark of their disposition to renew the friendship which subsisted so many ages between their ancestors and the citizens of these States.

That Congress have resolved to take the earliest opportunity to enter into a treaty of friendship and commerce with the Six Nations and other Indians lately at War, and for that purpose will appoint Commissioners to meet their chief men at ~~the Jenesee upper town~~ some proper place on the first day of June, and that in the interim

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[1] This extract is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 24, folio 175. The indorsement states that it was read on this day and referred to Mr. [Arthur] Lee, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase. See *post*, April 22, 1784.

Congress recommend to the Six Nations to employ themselves in hunting and in raising corn for the support and maintenance of their women and children, and that as a mark of the disposition of Congress toward the Six Nations, Traders shall be allowed to go among them in the Spring.

~~*Resolved, also,* That the Agent for Indian Affairs for the Western Department be directed to take the proper steps to assemble the chief men of the late hostile western nations of Indians at Detroit, to meet Commissioners whom Congress will appoint to be there on the first day of September next, for the purpose of making terms of peace, and entering into a treaty of friendship and commerce with those nations. That in the meantime Congress recommend to them to employ themselves in hunting and planting corn to provide for their women and children, and that Congress will permit traders to go among them immediately.~~

Resolved, That the said Agent be directed to take the most effectual steps to invite the chief men of the Indian nations inhabiting north of Illinois river and east of the Mississippi, and of all the nations inhabiting on the waters of the lakes from Michigan to the Lake of the Woods inclusive, to meet Commissioners from Congress on the 1st day of October next at Michilimackinac for the purpose of entering into Treaties of friendship and commerce.

Resolved, That the said Agent confer with the Superintendant of Finance on the expences of this business.[1]

The Committee of the Week [Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. John Beatty and Mr. David Howell] report that the foregoing petition from several foreign officers be referred to a special committee.[2]

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 203. According to the indorsement it was referred on this day to Mr. [Arthur] Lee, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Jacob] Read and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry. See *post*, February 10.

On this day, according to the indorsement, was read a petition of Lieutenant G. Diong. It is in No. 42, II, folio 303.

[2] This report, in the writing of Edward Lloyd (?), is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 42, VI, folio 92. The petition, from Lillie, Liebert, Gosselin, Diony and Selin, of Hazen's regiment, undated, is on folio 89. The indorsement states that it was read on this day.

On this day, as the indorsement states, was read a letter of February 5, from Brigadier General Moses Hazen's and referred to Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [George] Partridge and Mr. [Arthur] Lee. It is in No. 78, XI, folio 285. Committee Book, No. 186, says the committee reported March 27.

Resolved that the Deputies from the late hostile Tribes of the Six Nations now aſsembled at   be informed by the Commiſsioners for Indian Affairs, That Congreſs are well pleased with their visit & accept it as a Mark of their disposition to renew the friendship which subsisted so many ages between their ancestors and the Citizens of these States

That Congreſs have resolved to take the earliest opportunity to enter into a treaty of friendship & Commerce with the Six Nations & and other Indians lately at war and for that Purpose will appoint Commiſsioners to meet their Chief Men ~~at the~~ at some proper place ~~Seneca upper town~~ on the first day of June And that in the Interim Congreſs recommend to the Six Nations to employ themselves in hunting & in raising Corn for the support & maintenance of their women and Children and that as a Mark of the Disposition of Congreſs toward the Six Nations Traders shall be allowed to go among them in the Spring -

~~Resolved Also. That the Agent for Indian Affairs for the Western Department be directed to take the proper steps to assemble the Chief Men of the late hostile Western Nations of Indians at Detroit to meet Commissioners whom Congress will appoint to be there on the 1st day of September next for the purpose of making Terms of Peace and entering into a Treaty of Friendship & Commerce with those nations — That in the mean time Congress recommend to them to employ themselves in hunting and planting Corn to provide for their Women and Children & that Congress will permit Traders to go among them immediately~~

Resolved That the said Agent be directed to take the most effectual steps to invite the Chief Men of the Indian Nations inhabiting North of Illinois River & East of the Mississippi and of all the Nations inhabiting on the waters of the Lakes from Michigan to the Lake of the Woods unknow to Meet Commiſsioners from Congreſs on the 1st day of October next at Michilimackinac for the Purpose of entering into Treaties of Friendship & Commerce

Resolved that the said Agent confer with the Superintendant of Finance on the Expences of this busineſs -

Motion of Mr Read

referred Feby 6. 1784

to Mr Lee

Mr Williamson

Mr Hand

Mr Read

Mr Gerry

By the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled

February 10th. 1784

On the report of a Committee to whom were referred a report on letters of the 16 and 30 December from Genl. P. Schuyler and a motion of Mr. Read thereon

Resolved, That Genl. Schuyler be and he is hereby directed to expedite the return of the deputation from the late hostile tribes of Indians with information to their constituents, that due notice shall be given them of the time and place where Congreſs will hold a meeting for settling a general treaty with the Indian Nations, which meeting they may rest satisfied will be held as ſoon as the ſeason and other neceſsary circumstances will permit. In the mean time the Indian tribes may be aſsured of the protection of the United States so long as they continue in the peaceable disposition which they now manifest and which is highly pleasing to Congreſs. –

Cha Thomson secy.

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

from Congreſs

Genl. Schuyler

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1784.

Five states only attending; viz. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pensylvania and North Carolina; and from the State of New Hampshire, Mr. [Abiel] Foster; from New Jersey, Mr. [John] Beatty; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton; from Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase, and from Virginia, Mr. [Arthur] Lee; the President adjourned Congress to ten o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1784.

Six states only attending; viz. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pensylvania, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of New Hampshire, Mr. [Abiel] Foster; from New Jersey, Mr. [John] Beatty; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase; the President adjourned Congress till ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pensylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and from New Hampshire, Mr. [Abiel] Foster; from New Jersey, Mr. [John] Beatty; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Arthur] Lee, ~~Jefferson~~ Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Jacob] Read and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, to whom were referred a report on letters of 16 and 30 December, from General P. Schuyler, and a motion of Mr. [Jacob] Read thereon.

Resolved, That General Schuyler be, and he is hereby directed to expedite the return of the deputation from the late hostile tribes of Indians, with information to their constituents, that due notice shall be given them of the time and place where Congress will hold a meeting, for settling a general treaty with the Indian nations, which meeting they may rest satisfied will be held as soon as the season and other necessary circumstances will permit. In the mean time, the Indian tribes may be assured of the protection of the United States, so long as they continue in the peaceable disposition which they now manifest, and which is highly pleasing to Congress.[1]

Ordered, That the election of an under secretary, to take charge of the papers in the office for foreign affairs, be postponed till to-morrow.

[Motion of David Howell]

Whereas notwithstanding letters have been repeatedly written to the states unrepresented in Congress urging them in the strongest terms to send on their Delegates yet such has been the inattention of several of the states to this important point that there have been but eight states on the floor for twenty days past, and nine states for a few weeks only since the commencement of the present Congressional year,

And whereas ~~business of the greatest importance~~ Congress have in contemplation to adjourn sometime in May next for the rest of the year, provided the important business before Congress which requires the consent of nine states can be by that time decided,

Resolved, That the President write to the states of New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Georgia, earnestly requesting them to send forward their Delegates to Congress, that the ~~public~~ important business of the United States which requires a speedy decision may be despatched, that Congress may adjourn at the time proposed.

Resolved, That the President write to the Supreme Executives of the States of New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Georgia, and inform them that Congress have in contemplation to adjourn in the month of May next and leave a Committee of the States in session the rest of the year and that the affairs of the U. States absolutely require that those states should send forward their Delegates to Congress for the despatch of the public business in the mean time.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Arthur Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 201.

M^{r} [Arthur] Lee, M^{r} [William] Ellery, M^{r} [John] Beatty.[1]

[Motion of Mr. James Monroe; referred to Mr. Elbridge Gerry, Mr. James Monroe, Mr. Jacob Read, Mr. Roger Sherman and Mr. David Howell.]

That the committee on the memorial from Canadian Refugees be instructed to examine the engagements of Congress and of the commander in chief to the people of Canada and report their opinion how far the public faith under the laws of nations is thereby engaged to make good the losses they have sustained from the part they have acted under those engagements.[2]

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[1] This motion, in the writing of William Ellery as to the preamble and the first motion, and of David Howell as to the second motion, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folios 311–313. The indorsement states that it was referred on this day to the above-named committee.

[2] This motion, in the writing of James Monroe, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 35, folio 69. See *post*, February 13, 1784.

Another undated motion, in James Monroe's writing, is in No. 35, folio 89, as follows:

Resolved, That the several addresses from the U. S. in Congress assembled to the people of Canada Contain only invitations to them to join in the confideracy upon the common principles of the Union, equally to commit their lives and fortunes to the incertain events of War and to submit in either contingence to the consequences thereof.

That as the advantages and disadvantages, in either event were before them, the obvious reward on the one hand, freedom and the probable loss on the other, that of life and property, the exertion of every individual was the effect of a voluntary choice and preference for that alternative and that the losses which he may have sustained from the B. Government as a penalty for such conduct do not by any engagement expressed or implied, entitle him to retribution from these States and that such a claim is not authoriz'd by the usage of nations in similar circumstances.

That the attachment of these individuals to the American interest, their attention to our troops in Canada and the losses which these considerations expos'd them to, altho' they found no claim for retribution, entitle them to the gratitude and attention of these States and that from motives of humanity as well as policy it is advisable to give them such compensation as will relieve their distresses.

[Report of the Committee on Memorial of Refugees from Canada. Committed to M^r Elbridge Gerry, M^r James Monroe, M^r Jacob Read, M^r Roger Sherman, M^r David Howell.]

The Committee consisting of M^r [Thomas] Jefferson, M^r [Elbridge] Gerry and Mr. [Edward] Hand to whom were referred a memorial from Sundry officers, Merchants and Traders, in behalf of themselves and other refugees from Canada, a letter from his Excell^y Governor Clinton, one from the Superintendant of Finance, one from Major Gen^l Howe, one from M^r W^m Duer and the Copy of an address to the Inhabitants of Canada, dated 24th Jan^y, 1776, Submit the following report:

That there are a number of Canadian refugees of various descriptions who, induced by the recommendation of Congress, and actuated by a love of Liberty did in the year 1776 espouse the American cause by taking arms in its defence, or by furnishing supplies to the troops employed in Canada; that when the Americans were unsuccessful in Canada, those generous friends followed our fortunes and retired with our army, which has occasioned the loss of the greatest part of their property and reduced many of them to the utmost distress, insomuch that those who formerly lived in affluence are now indebted to the cold hand of Charity for the means of subsistence.

That the United States in Congress assembled, from a sense of the merit of those unhappy people, did by a resolution of the 23^d April last signify to them a willingness to relieve their distresses when circumstances should admit thereof. Your Committee beg leave further to report that a number of the said refugees at or near West Point do now draw rations from the public magazines for the subsistence of themselves and families, and create thereby a heavy expence to the United States, without affording an adequate relief to their sufferings; that to avoid this expence and at the same time to afford the sufferers that support which humanity and justice appear to demand, and which Congress have acknowledged they merit, your Committee submit the following Resolve:

That three Commissioners be appointed to ascertain *the property and circumstances* OF THE CANADIAN REFUGEES at the time they repaired to the American Standard, their conduct and services during the late War, and the sacrifices they have made in Consequence thereof, and to report to Congress the particular case of each individual; that the said Commissioners be and they are hereby authorized and instructed to give orders for stopping the Issues of rations to such of the said refugees as may not appear to merit the further assistance of the United States.[1]

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present as yesterday.

Ordered, That the election of an under secretary, to take charge of the papers in the office for foreign affairs, be farther postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [Arthur] Lee,

Ordered, That to-morrow be assigned for electing a deputy secretary.

The committee consisting of [Mr. William Ellery, Mr. Thomas Jefferson and Mr. Arthur Lee] to whom was referred a note from the honble the Minister of France dated the 30 Jany. last, informing that H. M. C. M. from a desire to favour the progress of Commerce between his realm and these United States, has nominated 4 consuls and 5 vice-consuls to reside in the towns of this continent where he has judged their presence to be necessary, and that he has appointed Mr. de Marbois consul general for the 13 U. S. to attend more particularly to the general objects of Commerce," ~~and desiring that Congress would be pleased to appoint a committee to treat with Mr. de Marbois relative to the recognition of the character of these new officers, report~~

~~That they have conferred with Mr. de Marbois, who produced to them a commission for himself, appointing him Consul of France for the states of Pensylvania and Delaware, and Consul general for the 13 U. S., to reside at Philadelphia.~~

~~Also a commission for the Sr. de l'Etombe, appointing him Consul of France for the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, to reside at Boston.~~

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 35, folio 83. The indorsement states that it was delivered this day, entered and read.

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The Committee, consisting of Mr Lee, Mr ~~Jefferson~~ ~~&~~ Mr Hand. Mr Read, & Mr Gerry Mr Williamson, to whom ~~the~~ a report upon the Letters from Genl. Schyler of the 16 & 30 Decr. 1783, together with a motion of Mr Read on the same ~~was~~ referred — beg leave to recommend the following Resolution

Res.d That Genl. Schyler be directed to expedite the return of the Deputation from the late hostile tribes of Indians with information to their Constituents — that due notice shall be given them of the time & place where Congreſs will hold a meeting for settling a general treaty with the indian Nations; which meeting, they may rest satisfyd, will be held as soon as the season & other neceſsary circumstances will permit. In the mean time the Indian tribes may be aſsured of the ~~[illegible]~~ protection of ~~the~~ the U. S. so long as they continue in the peaceable disposition which they now manifest, & which is highly pleasing to Congreſs.

Report in part
Mr Lee
Mr Jefferson
Mr Williamson
delivered 3 Feby
on letters 16 & 30 Decr from
P. Schuyler
delivered 3 Feby 1784
Entd. read
4 feby assigned for considern
Feby 6. 1784
Referred to Mr Lee
Mr Williamson
Mr Hand
Mr Read
Mr Gerry —
Reported Feby 10. 1784
Entd.
Passed 10 Feby 1784

some questions proposed by us, and which we laid before the General Assembly last year.

JOHN DICKINSON.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Philadelphia, February the twenty-first, 1784.

The Council met.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, February 23d, 1784.

PRESENT:

His Excellency JOHN DICKINSON, Esquire, President.

The Honorable JAMES EWING, Esquire, Vice President.

James Irvine,
George Wall, Junior,
John McDowell,
John Boyd,
Stephen Balliott,
John Neville, and
Isaac Mason,
Esquires.

On consideration,

Resolved, That each of the Commisssioners to be appointed to hold a treaty with the Indians claiming the unpurchased territory within the acknowledged limits of this State, be allowed for every day they shall be employed in that business, the sum of forty-five shillings, being the pay allowed to a delegate from this State to Congress.

The Council proceeded to the appointment of Commissioners to hold a treaty with the Indians claiming the unpurchased territory within the acknowledged limits of this State, pursuant to resolution of the General Assembly of the twenty-fifth of September, 1783, and the ballots being taken, it appeared that the Honorable Samuel John Atlee, Esquire, William Maclay and Francis Johnston, Esquires, were duly chosen.

The Committee consisting of Mr Duane Mr Peters
Mr Carroll, Mr Hawkins & Mr Lee to whom
were ~~referred~~ recommitted the eighth Article
of the report on Indian Affairs & to whom
were committed sundry Motions on that
Subject submit the following ~~Report~~
Resolves

That the S. Intendant of Finance cause to be purchased a Quantity of Goods & Articles proper & necessary for the Indians at the Opening of the proposed Negotiations to the Amount of Dollars according to an Estimate specifying Kinds Qualities & Proportions to be furnished by the Secretary at War

That the Secretary at War appoint a suitable Person as a Storekeeper to take Charge of all Goods & Articles to be furnished at the proposed Treaty. The said Storekeeper to act under the Directions of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs whose Orders shall be recieved as Vouchers at the Treasury on Settlement of ~~the~~ his Accounts.

That the Commissioners be & they are hereby directed so soon as may be to lay before Congress a complete Estimate of the ~~Quan~~ Kinds Qualities & Value of the Articles which may be required at the Negotiations with the Indians in Addition to those herein directed to be furnished to the end that ~~the~~ Measures may be taken for procuring the same

Additional report on

Indian Affairs

Mr Duane

Peters

Mr Carroll

Mr Hawkins

Mr Lee

Delivered Oct 24. 1783

Entd. read.

1784 March 3.

Referred to Mr Jefferson

Mr Howell

Mr Lee

The memorial of Harman Courter, being connected with this subject, will be herewith delivered.

JOHN DICKINSON.

Council Chamber, Philadelphia, February 27th, 1784.

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Saturday, February 28th, 1784.

PRESENT:

His Excellency JOHN DICKINSON, Esquire, President.

The Hon'ble	James Irvine,	John Boyd,	Esquires.
	George Wall, Jun'r,	Stephen Balliott, &	
	John McDowell,	John Neville,	
	John Byers,		

An order was drawn on the Treasurer in favor of John Erwin, for the sum of sixty-six pounds nine shillings and six pence, State money, in full for principal and interest due upon his certificate for a horse furnished for public use, to be paid according to resolution of Assembly dated the eighth of April, 1782.

Jacob Cooke, Esquire, was appointed and commissioned a Justice of the Peace for the county of Lancaster, upon a return made agreeably to law.

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Monday, March 1st, 1784.

PRESENT:

His Excellency JOHN DICKINSON, Esquire, President.

The Hon'ble	James Irvine,	John Boyd,	Esquires.
	George Wall, Jun'r,	Stephen Balliott, &	
	John M'Dowell,	John Neville,	
	John Byers,		

A draft of a message to the General Assembly was read, adopted as follows, and presented by the Secretary:

A Message from the President and the Supreme Executive Council to the General Assembly:

Gentlemen:—In pursuance of the resolution of the General Assembly of the twenty-fifth of last September, we have appointed Samuel John Atlee, William McClay, and Francis Johnston, Esquires, Commissioners to hold a treaty with the Indians claiming the unpurchased territory within the acknowledged limits of this State, for the purpose of purchasing the same.

In an affair of so much importance, we should be glad to know whether it is the sense of your Honorable House that the Commissioners of this State should hold a treaty for the purpose before mentioned, if any circumstance should prevent Congress from holding a convention with the Indians residing in the northern and middle departments, as such a separate treaty must be attended with a very great expence to this Commonwealth, and the measure involves considerations of much moment.

JOHN DICKINSON.

Council Chamber,
Philadelphia, March the 1st, 1784

The following orders were drawn on the Treasurer, to wit:

In favor of the Hon'ble John McDowell, Esquire, for twenty-five pounds seven shillings and six pence specie, in full for his wages as Councillor 'till the twenty-ninth of February, 1784, inclusively.

In favor of the Honorable Stephen Balliot, Esquire, for the sum of twenty-five pounds seven shillings and six pence, in full for his wages as Councillor 'till the twenty-ninth of February, 1784, inclusively.

General Irvine attended the President as a member of the Board of Property.

The Council met.

Philadelphia, Tuesday, March 2nd, 1784.

PRESENT:

His Excellency JOHN DICKINSON, Esquire, President.

The Honorable James Irvine, Stephen Balliott,
John McDowell, John Byers, and
George Wall, John Boyd.

The following orders were drawn on the Treasurer, to wit:

In favor of Frederick Sneider, for twenty pounds two shillings and six pence, in full of his account as Door-keeper to Council, and contingents, to the 29th of February, 1784, inclusively.

In favor of the Honorable John Byers, Esquire, for eighty-five pounds specie, in full for his services at this Board, and his mileage 'till this day, inclusively.

In favor of the Honorable George Wall, junior, Esquire, for fifty-two pounds ten shillings specie, for his services in Council 'till the twenty-ninth ult., inclusively.

(Copy)

By the united States in Congreſs aſsembled March 3d. 1784—

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Resolved That to Morrow be aſsigned for electing five Commiſs.rs to negotiate wth the Indians.—

March 4th. Congreſs proceeded to the Election of five Commiſs.rs to negotiate wth ye Inds. and the Ballots being taken: Mr Geo Rogers Clarke, Mr Oliver Wolcott, Mr Nathanael Greene, Mr Richard Butler, and Mr Steph. Higgenson were elected.—

March 5th. Resolved that the President immediately inform the Gentlemen, elected Commiſs.rs for holding a Treaty with the Indians of the said Election, And that, as it is the Wish of Cong: that the Negotiations should commence as soon as possible, the Commiſs.rs are desired to meet at N. York on the 10th of Apl. next, to fix upon the Times & places of holding ye Treaties with the diff.t Nations & Tribes of Indians, And give them respectively the speediest Information, of the Time & place determined on, inviting them to meet accordingly.—

Resolved That all Appointm.ts of persons for Negotiating with the Indians prior to that of the 4th Inst. be and they are hereby revoked.

Signed Charles Thomson
Secy

To
Captn Brant at Niagara—

N.B. by this you see Genl. Schuyler is not of the Number
J: Melchi

- 3d - March 84 -

sent to Capt Brant

United States in Congreſs aſsembled

March 4. 1784

Congreſs proceeded to the election of five commiſsioners to negotiate with the Indians and the ballots being taken Mr George Rogers Clarke, Mr Oliver Wolcott Mr Nathaniel Greene Mr Richard Butler and Mr Stephen Higginson were elected

March 19. 1784

Resolved that the commiſsioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians shall each be allowed six and an half dollars per day for the time they shall be employed in that buſineſs in full for their services and expenses, exclusive of their expenses at the place or places where the treaties shall be held

Resolved that the superintendant of finance cause to be purchased a quantity of goods to be applied in negotiating the treaty with the Indians the amount not to exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars including those on hand according to an estimate specifying kinds quantities & qualities to be furnished by the commiſsioners for negotiating the treaty.

Resolved that the commiſsioners be and they hereby are authorised & instructed to appoint one or more suitable person or persons with such allowance as they may think reasonable to receive the aforesaid goods to take charge of their transportation to such place or places as may be pointed out by the said commiſsioners & to attend to the safe keeping & issuing agreeably to such orders as he or they may receive from the said commiſsioners, all goods committed to his or their care, which orders are to be produced as vouchers on the settlement of the accounts: And that the Superintendant of finance furnish to the order of the said commiſsioners the sums of money neceſsary for carrying this resolve into execution.

April 24. 1784

According to the order of the day Congreſs proceeded to the election of two Commiſsioners to negotiate with the Indians in the Room of Mr Higgenson and Mr N Greene who have declined that office & the ballots being taken

Mr Benjamin Lincoln & Mr R Lee were elected.

June 3. 1784

Resolved That the secretary in the war office be and he is hereby directed to order three hundred men of the militia directed to be raised by the act of this day to be in readiness to march when and to what place or places the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them shall direct: And that the commanding officer of the troops give such protection to the Commissioners as they or any two of them shall require; and that the said Secretary give order to the different keepers of the public stores to furnish to the order of the commissioners or any two of them such tents marquees and other articles as the said commissioners shall think proper

Resolved That the superintendant of finance take order for for purchasing and transmitting the articles necessary for the Indian treaties according to a list hereunto annexed to such places as the commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians or any two of them shall direct. That he furnish such additional articles not exceeding the sum of four thousand dollars as the said commissioners shall order; and that he contract with such persons as he may think proper to furnish sixty thousand rations for the Indian treaties at such places as the Commissioners or any two of them shall direct together with such things as shall be necessary for the expenses of the said Commissioners during the negotiation.

Resolved That the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them being a majority of thoſe preſent be empowered to do the buſineſs of the Commiſsion and to appoint a ſecretary, meſsengers, interpreters, ſtorekeeper, and ſuch artificers as they may find neceſsary and to agree with them for their pay for which they ſhall draw warrants on the treaſury

Chas Thomson secy.

United States in Congreſs aſsembled

March 4. 1784

Congreſs proceeded to the election of five commiſsioners to negotiate with the Indians and the ballots being taken Mr George Rogers Clarke Mr Oliver Wolcott Mr Nathaniel Greene Mr Richard Butler and Mr Stephen Higginson were elected

March 19. 1784

Reſolved That the commiſsioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians ſhall each be allowed ſix and one half dollars per day for the time they ſhall be employed in that buſineſs in full for their ſervices and expences, excluſive of their expences at the place or places where the treaties ſhall be held

Reſolved that the ſuperintendant of finance cauſe to be purchaſed a quantity of goods to be applied in negotiating the treaty with the Indians the amount not to exceed the ſum of fifteen thouſand dollars including thoſe on hand according to an eſtimate ſpecifying kinds quantities & qualities to be furniſhed by the commiſsioners for negotiating the treaty.

Reſolved That the commiſsioners be and they hereby are authoriſed & inſtructed to appoint one or more ſuitable perſon or perſons with ſuch allowance as they may think reaſonable to receive the aforeſaid goods to take charge of their tranſportation to ſuch place or places as may be pointed out by the ſaid commiſsioners & to attend to the ſafe keeping & iſsuing agreeably to ſuch orders as he or they may receive from the ſaid commiſsioners, all goods committed to his or their care, which orders are to be produced as vouchers on the ſettlement of the accounts: And that the ſuperintendant of finance furniſh to the order of the ſaid commiſsioners the ſums of money neceſsary carrying this reſolve into execution.

April 24. 1784

Congreſs proceeded according to the order of the day to the election of two commiſsioners to negotiate with the Indians in the Room of Mr Higgenson and Mr N Greene who have declined that office & the ballots being taken

Mr Benjamin Lincoln & Mr A Lee were elected.

June 3. 1784

Resolved That the secretary in the war office be and he is hereby directed to order three hundred men of the militia directed to be raised by the act of this day to be in readiness to march when and to what place or places the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them shall direct: and that the commanding officer of the troops give such protection to the Commissioners as they or any two of them shall require; and that the said Secretary give order to the different keepers of the public stores to furnish to the order of the commissioners or any two of them such tents marquees and other articles as the said commissioners shall think proper

Resolved That the Superintendant of finance take order for for purchasing and transmitting the articles necessary for the Indian treaties according to a list hereunto annexed to such places as the commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians or any two of them shall direct. That he furnish such additional articles not exceeding the sum of four thousand dollars as the said commissioners shall order; and that he contract with such persons as he may think proper to furnish sixty thousand rations for the Indian treaties at such places as the Commissioners or any two of them shall direct together with such things as shall be necessary for the expences of the said Commissioners during the negotiation.

Resolved That the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them being a majority of thoſe preſent be empowered to do the buſineſs of the Commiſsion and to appoint a ſecretary, meſsengers, interpreters, ſtorekeeper, and ſuch artificers as they may find neceſsary and to agree with them for their pay for which they ſhall draw warrants on the treaſury

Cha Thomson secy

provided the others shall have been duly notified of each meeting or adjournment in such manner as a Majority may direct.

Mr Gerry, Mr Partridge.[1]

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, the same states as yesterday, and from the State of Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase.

Congress proceeded to the election of five Commissioners to negotiate with the Indians; and, the ballots being taken, Mr. George Rogers Clarke, Mr. Oliver Wolcott, Mr. Nathaniel Greene, Mr. Richard Butler and Mr. Stephen Higgenson were elected.[2]

Ordered, That the election of a deputy secretary be postponed.

The Committee of the Week [Mr. Jonathan Blanchard, Mr. Samuel Dick and Mr. James Wadsworth] report,

On the petition of John David Woelpper formerly of the German Regiment and late of the Invalid Regiment in the Barracks at Philadelphia. That the petition lay on the table.

On the petition of Bodo Otto late a Surgeon in the service of the United States. That the said petition lay on the table.[3]

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present as yesterday.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [David] Howell and Mr. [Arthur] Lee, appointed to consider and report what further arrangements are necessary to carry into effect the proposed treaty with the Indians;

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 337. The indorsement shows that it was debated on this day, and postponed till to-morrow.

[2] The vote on the election of the commissioners is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 335.

[3] This report, in the writing of Jonathan Blanchard, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 539. According to the indorsement it was presented on this day.

On this day, as the indorsement indicates, was read a letter of 8 February, from David S. Franks. It is in No. 78, IX, folio 511.

Resolved, That the president immediately inform the gentlemen elected commissioners for holding a treaty with the Indians, of the said election, and that, as it is the wish of Congress, that the negotiations should commence as soon as possible, the commissioners are desired to meet at New York, on the 10th day of April next, to fix upon the times and places of holding the treaties with the different nations and tribes of Indians, and give them respectively the speediest information of the time and place determined on, inviting them to meet accordingly.

Resolved, That all appointments of persons for negotiating with the Indians, prior to that of the 4 instant, be, and they are hereby revoked.

Ordered, That the secretary prepare and lay before Congress, the form of a commission, for the persons appointed to negotiate with the Indians, making any three of the same competent to the business of their commission.

Resolved, That each of the Commissioners attending the Treaty shall be allowed ——— dollars a day, in full for his services during such attendance exclusive of his expences necessarily incurred.[1]

The Committee [Mr Hugh Williamson, Mr Elbridge Gerry, Mr James Tilton, Mr Thomas Jefferson, Mr James McHenry] appointed to consider what reductions may be made in the civil List have agreed to the following resolutions,

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[1] This report, in the writing of Arthur Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 30, folio 207. A memorandum of the motions consequent upon the last paragraph, which was lost, is indorsed on the report, as follows:

To postpone, Mr Gerry, Mr Spaight,
To commit, Mr Lee, Mr Reed, lost.
Mr Tilton, Mr Montgomery, 5 dollars, lost.
Six, Mr Sherman, Mr Williamson, lost.
Mr Partridge, Mr Reed, 7½, lost.
4 dollars, Mr Reed, Mr Bedford, lost.
Eight, Mr Spaight, Mr Reed, lost.
Seven, Mr Gerry, Mr Spaight, lost.
Mr Gerry, Mr Spaight, 6⅔, lost.
Mr Sherman, Mr Lee, 6½, lost.

Resolved, That the following offices be discontinued to wit:

	Dollars.
The Chargé des affaires at the Court of Madrid whose salary is	4444
Agent at the Hague	920
2nd Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs	700
The Secretary of the War office	1000
Agent of Marine	1500
Paymaster	1000
Commissary of prisoners	1200
The Assistant to the Superintendant of Finance	1850
3 Clerks in the Office of Finance (meaning that 3 shall remain)	1500
1 Clerk to the Comptroller	500
2 Auditors	2000
1 Chaplain	400
The establishment of the jail	1338⅓
Doorkeeper to Congress	400
Whereby an annual saving will accrue to the United States of	18, 752⅓ dolls.

Resolved, That the following salaries may be reduced by taking from the allowances heretofore established the following sums,

	Dolls.
The Superintendant of Finance	2000
The three foreign Ministers each 1111⅑ dols	3333⅓
Whereby an annual saving will accrue to the United States of	5333⅓

Resolved, That instead of the annual salary heretofore allowed to the Judges of the Court of appeals they be allowed on every special occasion, wherein they shall be called on, the sum of 14 Dollars each for every day they shall sit in Court, and the same for every day necessarily employed in travelling to and from Court.

Resolved, That after the day of the following offices may be discontinued:

	Dolls.
13 Commissioners for settling the accounts of the United States in the several States	19, 500
9 Clerks to the said Commissioners	4, 500

	Dolls.
5 Commissioners for settling the Accts. of the Staff Departments	7, 500
9 Clerks to the Commissioners last mentioned	4, 500
Whereby an annual saving will thence ensue of	36, 000

Resolved, That the duties of Agent of Marine be performed by the Secretary at War, who for his assistance therein shall retain a Secretary of Marine heretofore allowed in the office of the Agent of Marine.

A view of the Civil List as proposed to be reduced, (stated for the satisfaction of the House, but not made a part of the Report.)

Secretary of Congress	3000 Doll.	
Deputy Secretary	1000	
2 Clerks	1000	
Messenger	400—	5400
Chaplain		400
Secretary of Foreign Affairs	4000	
1 Under Secretary	800	
2 Clerks	1000—	5800
Secretary at War	4000	
Assistant	1250	
2 Clerks	1000	
Secretary of Marine	1000	
Messenger	300—	7550
Superintendant of Finance	4000	
Secretary	1000	
3 Clerks	1500	

Waiter	300	
Comptroller	1850	
Auditor	1000	
6 Clerks of accounts	3000	
Register	1200	
4 Clerks	2000	
Messenger	192	
Treasurer	1500	
Clerk	500—	18042
		37192
3 Foreign Ministers @ 10000	30000	
1 Secretary of Embassy	1333⅓	
	31333⅓	
Brought forward	37192	
	68525⅓	
3 Judges of appeals.[1]		

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[1] This report, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 26, folio 473. The indorsement states that it was read on this day.

[Report upon the motion for reducing certain loan office certificates.]

The Committee [Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Roger Sherman and Mr. Jacob Read] appointed on a motion of   for devising ways and means to discharge that part of the public debt consisting of Continental loan office certificates issued between the 1st of Sept. 1777 and the 1st of March 1778, beg leave to report,

That it appears from accounts certified by the Register, that the nominal amount of the said certificates is 3,459,000 dollars on which by virtue of the Resolutions of Congress an annual Interest of 6 per ct. is payable in specie amounting to 207,540 dollars. That the said principal sum reduced to specie value by the scale adopted for that purpose amounts to 2,438,571 dols. which at 6 per ct. would bear an annual interest of 146,314 dols., so that the Interest now paid on the nominal sum of the said certificates is a little more than eight and an half per cent per annum on the real sum and exceeds the interest of 6 per ct. on the specie value 61,226 dols. per annum, the saving of which is in the opinion of the Committee an object worthy of the immediate attention of ~~Congress~~ the States.

Upon which they submit the following resolution:

Whereas the loan office certificates issued on the credit of the U. S. between the 1st of September 1777 and the 1st of March 1778 draw an annual Interest of 6 per ct. on the nominal sum, being about 8 and an half per cent on the true value reduced by the continental scale of depreciation, the excess above 6 per ct. amounting annually to the sum of 61,226 dols. which cannot be remedied but by paying the principal due on the said certificates.

Resolved, That the States be called upon to raise in such way as may be most convenient to them and pay into the ~~Treasury of the United States~~ hands of the Continental Receivers in the respective States by the last day of December next, the sum of 2,500,000 dollars in the following proportions:

New Hampshire	87, 846	Delaware	37, 405
Massachusetts	374, 046	Maryland	235, 862
Rhode Island	53, 863	Virginia	427, 478
Connecticut	220, 154	North Carolina	181, 676
New York	213, 738	South Carolina	160, 305
New Jersey	138, 930	Georgia	26, 716
Pennsylvania	341, 982		

Which sums may be paid in money or in the loan office certificates aforesaid reduced to specie value by the continental scale of depreciation.

And that each State may be excited to a speedy compliance with this requisition, and not be prejudiced by the negligence of any other States—

Resolved, That the several States shall be allowed interest at the rate of 6 per ct pr annum on the nominal sums which shall be paid in the said certificates by them respectively from the time the same shall be paid into the hands of the Continental Receiver until every State shall have furnished its quota aforesaid.

Resolved, That the monies arising from the said Requisition be applied to the discharge of the principal of the said loan office certificates, and to no other purpose whatsoever.[1]

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1784.

Mr. Gunning Bedford, a delegate for the State of Delaware, attended.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and from the State of Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase.

Congress proceeded in the farther consideration of the report of the committee appointed to consider and report what further arrangements are necessary to carry into effect the proposed treaty with the Indians:

And the following paragraph being under debate, and amended to read,

That each of the commissioners attending the treaty, shall be allowed   dollars a day, in full for his services during such attendance, exclusive of his expences necessarily incurred.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Arthur Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 29, folio 205. The indorsement states that it was read on this day and 19 Sept., 1786, referred to Mr. [Nathan] Dane, Mr. [Edward] Carrington and Mr. [Melancthon] Smith. See *post*, September 19, 1786.

The Committee appointed to consider & report what farther arrangements are necessary to carry into effect the proposed treaty with the Indians — beg leave to recommend the following Resolutions

R. That the President immediately inform the Gentlemen elected Commissioners for holding a treaty with the Indians, of the said election, & that as it is the wish of Congress that the negociations should commence as soon as possible, the Commissioners are desired to meet at N. York on the tenth day of April next, to fix upon the times & places of holding the treaties ~~with~~ ~~the nations~~ with the different nations and tribes of Indians, & give them respectively the speediest information of the time & place determined on, inviting them to meet accordingly.

R. That all former appointments of persons, for negociating with the Indians, be, & they are hereby revoked. ~~[illegible]~~

R. That the Secretary prepare & lay before Congreſs the form of a Commiſsion for the persons appointed to negociate with the Indians, making any three of the same, competent to the buſineſs of their Commiſsion

R. That each of the Commiſsioners attending the Treaty shall be allowed ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] dollars a day, in full for the services &c &c ^ in such attendance exclusive of his Expences [illegible]

Report of ~~[illegible]~~
Mr Jefferson
Mr Howell
Mr Lee

Arrangements to carry into effect the proposed treaty with the Indians
Entd. read 5 March 1784
Passed 4 March except the ~~[illegible]~~ respecting the [illegible] to be allowed

[illegible] Mr Gerry
Mr [illegible] }

[illegible] Mr Lee
Mr Read } [illegible]

8

Mr Ellery
Mr Montgomery } 8 Dollars lost

Eight { Mr Spaight
Mr Read } lost

Ten { Mr Gerry
Mr Spaight } lost

Six { Mr Sherman
Mr Williamson } [illegible]

10 dollars Mr [illegible]
Mr Beresford } [illegible]

Mr Gerry
Mr Spaight } $6\frac{2}{3}$ lost

Mr Partridge
Mr Read } [illegible]

Mr Sherman
Mr Lee [illegible]

At a Meeting held at Niagara the 6th March 1784, at the request of the Sachems and Chiefs of the Six Nations, in consequence of a speech sent by General Schuyler, in answer to the Six Nations & Confederates speech sent to him last fall by Peterus and Little Beard. ———

— Present —

Lt. Colo. Hoyes 34th Regt. Comt.
Lt. Col. Butler Depy. Agt. Ind. Affs.
Capt. Forbes 34th Regt.
Capt. Hamilton 8th Regt.
Lt. Wade Royl. Arty. —

Lt. Wilmott 8th Regt. —
Lt. Dodsworth 34th Regt.
Capt. Powell Indn. Dept.
Lt. Bowen Indn. Dept.
Lt. D. Servos Indn. Dept.
Mr. Wilkinson Surg. I. Dept.
Mr. Nicholas Stevens Interpr.

Sayengaraghta, Little Beard Scanandoa, Peterus and the greatest part of the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations Indians being assembled ~~went through~~ the usual ceremony. —

General Schuyler's Speech was read and interpreted to the Indians, the business was then adjourned to the day following. ———

March 7th. present as before. —

Sayengaraghta rose and spoke as follows

Brother. You yesterday communicated to us General Schuylers speech, sent by Little Beard and Peterus, which speech we have seriously considered, and have, agreeable to our promise, concluded to send

Deputies to Canada and Detroit, to acquaint our Brethren with the same — And request that you will write to Mr. McKee (inclosing a copy of General Schuylers speech) desiring him to explain it to the Hurons, that they may immediately dispatch Meſsengers to communicate the same to the different Nations to the Southd. and Westward, as also to desire the Sachems and Chiefs, to keep themselves in readineſs to attend at a General Council or Treaty, Time and place we will inform them by a runner, which probably will be immediately after we receive the Answer from Congreſs, that General Schuyler alludes to in his speech — We also desire that you will write to Capt. Brant, that he may acquaint our Brethren the seven Nations in Canada with this important Busineſs, and also invite the principle Men to attend the General Treaty, to which they shall have timely Notice. And that Capt. Brant will dispatch his Busineſs in Canada, and return to this place with every poſsible and convenient speed —

Four Strings Wampum

(Copy) Proceedings
in meeting held at Niagara
the 6th March 1784, by
Six Nations, in consequence
of Speech received from
General Schuyler, by
[illegible] with Beard

in the course of the late war with Great Britain; and their entire approbation of the Bravery, Activity and Zeal you have so often evidenced in the Cause of America —

To this public Testimony of your very great merit in the late revolution, permit me to add, that your disinterested and friendly exertions in behalf of those brave Officers who served under you in the late War, do you very great honour, and must be considered by all honest men, as the strongest proof of a virtuous and benevolent heart. —

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem

Your most obedient & humble
Servant. Thomas Mifflin

General George Rogers Clarke

Annapolis March 6th 1784

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that Congreſs have appointed you a Commiſsioner for holding a Treaty with the Indians and that as it is the wish of Congreſs that the Negotiations should commence as ſoon as poſsible the Commiſsioners are desired to meet at New York on the 10th day of April next to fix upon the times and places of holding the Treaties with the different Nations and Tribes of

"Indians, and give them respectively the speediest
"information of the time and place determined
"on inviting them to meet accordingly."

The Gentlemen appointed to act with you are Mr Oliver Wolcott, Mr Nathaniel Greene, Mr Richard Butler and Mr Stephen Higgenson — I request the favour of your answer by the Expreſs who will deliver this letter —

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem.

Sir, Your most Obedient and
humble Servant
Thomas Mifflin —

A similar letter was sent to Mr Oliver Wolcott, General Greene, General Richard Butler and Mr Stephen Higgenson —

The Honorable
Benjamin Franklin
and John Adams Esqrs

Annapolis. March 20th 1784

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to transmit to you an Act of Congreſs of the 16th Inst. together with Copies of several Papers to which that Act refers

I am with the greatest respect and esteem Gentlemen Your Obedient Servant
Thomas Mifflin.

At a Meeting held at Niagara the 6th March 1784 at the request of the Sachems and Chiefs of the Six Nations, in consequence of a Speech sent by General Schuyler, in Answer to the Six Nation Speech sent to him last fall by Peterus and Little Beard. —

Present. —

Lt. Col. Hoyes 34th Regt. & Commandt.
Lt. Col. Butler Depy. Agent Indn. Affairs
Captain Forbes 34th Regimt.
Captn. Hamilton 8th Regt.
Lt. Willmott — Do. —
Lt. Wade Royal Artillery

Lt. Dodsworth 34th Regt.
Captn. Powell Indn. Dept.
Lieut. Bowen Do.
Lieut. D. Servos.
Mr. Wilkinson, Secy. Do.
Mr. Nicholas Stevens, Interpr.

Sayengaraghta, Little Beard, Skenondoa, Peterus, and the greatest part of the Chiefs & Warriors of the Six Nations being aſsembled, went through the usual ceremony —

General Schuyler's Speech was read, and Interpreted to the Indians, the buſineſs was then adjourned to the Day following. —

March 7th Present as before —

Sayengaraghta rose, & spoke as follows. —

Brother,

You yesterday communicated to us General Schuyler's — Speech, sent by Little Beard, and Peterus, which Speech we have seriously considered, and have, agreeable to our promise concluded to send Deputies to Canada, and Detroit to acquaint our Brethren with the same — And request that you will write to Mr. McKee inclosing a Copy of General Schuyler's Speech, desiring him to explain it to the Hurons, that they may immediately Dispatch Meſsengers to Communicate the same to the different Nations to the Southward and Westward, as also to desire the Sachems, and Chiefs to keep — themselves in readineſs to attend, at a General Council, or Treaty, Time and place we will inform them by a Runner, which probably will be immediately after we receive the answer from Congreſs, that General Schuyler alludes to in his Speech.—

We also desire that you will write to Captain Brant, that he may acquaint our Brethren the seven Nations in Canada with this important Business, and also invite the principal Men to attend the General Treaty, to which they shall have Timely Notice; and that Captain Brant will dispatch his Business in Canada, and return to this place with every possible & convenient Speed—

Four Strings Wampum.—

BRITISH MUSEUM

Copy./

4

Meeting held at Niagara 6.
March 1784. in consequence
of a Speech recd. from Genl. Schuyler

[Report upon the motion for reducing certain loan office certificates.]

The Committee [Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Roger Sherman and Mr. Jacob Read] appointed on a motion of   for devising ways and means to discharge that part of the public debt consisting of Continental loan office certificates issued between the 1st of Sept. 1777 and the 1st of March 1778, beg leave to report,

That it appears from accounts certified by the Register, that the nominal amount of the said certificates is 3,459,000 dollars on which by virtue of the Resolutions of Congress an annual Interest of 6 per ct. is payable in specie amounting to 207,540 dollars. That the said principal sum reduced to specie value by the scale adopted for that purpose amounts to 2,438,571 dols. which at 6 per ct. would bear an annual interest of 146,314 dols., so that the Interest now paid on the nominal sum of the said certificates is a little more than eight and an half per cent per annum on the real sum and exceeds the interest of 6 per ct. on the specie value 61,226 dols. per annum, the saving of which is in the opinion of the Committee an object worthy of the immediate attention of ~~Congress~~ the States.

Upon which they submit the following resolution:

Whereas the loan office certificates issued on the credit of the U. S. between the 1st of September 1777 and the 1st of March 1778 draw an annual Interest of 6 per ct. on the nominal sum, being about 8 and an half per cent on the true value reduced by the continental scale of depreciation, the excess above 6 per ct. amounting annually to the sum of 61,226 dols. which cannot be remedied but by paying the principal due on the said certificates.

Resolved, That the States be called upon to raise in such way as may be most convenient to them and pay into the ~~Treasury of the United States~~ hands of the Continental Receivers in the respective States by the last day of December next, the sum of 2,500,000 dollars in the following proportions:

New Hampshire	87, 846	Delaware	37, 405
Massachusetts	374, 046	Maryland	235, 862
Rhode Island	53, 863	Virginia	427, 478
Connecticut	220, 154	North Carolina	181, 676
New York	213, 738	South Carolina	160, 305
New Jersey	138, 930	Georgia	26, 716
Pennsylvania	341, 982		

Which sums may be paid in money or in the loan office certificates aforesaid reduced to specie value by the continental scale of depreciation.

And that each State may be excited to a speedy compliance with this requisition, and not be prejudiced by the negligence of any other States—

Resolved, That the several States shall be allowed interest at the rate of 6 per ct pr annum on the nominal sums which shall be paid in the said certificates by them respectively from the time the same shall be paid into the hands of the Continental Receiver until every State shall have furnished its quota aforesaid.

Resolved, That the monies arising from the said Requisition be applied to the discharge of the principal of the said loan office certificates, and to no other purpose whatsoever.[1]

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1784.

Mr. Gunning Bedford, a delegate for the State of Delaware, attended.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and from the State of Maryland, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase.

Congress proceeded in the farther consideration of the report of the committee appointed to consider and report what further arrangements are necessary to carry into effect the proposed treaty with the Indians:

And the following paragraph being under debate, and amended to read,

That each of the commissioners attending the treaty, shall be allowed   dollars a day, in full for his services during such attendance, exclusive of his expences necessarily incurred.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Arthur Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 29, folio 205. The indorsement states that it was read on this day and 19 Sept., 1786, referred to Mr. [Nathan] Dane, Mr. [Edward] Carrington and Mr. [Melancthon] Smith. See *post*, September 19, 1786.

A motion was made by Mr. [David] Howell, seconded by Mr. [James] Tilton, to strike out the words between "allowed" and "his expenses," and after "incurred," to add, "and such compensation for his time, as the nature and extent of his services may require."

A motion was made by Mr. [William] Ellery, seconded by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, to postpone the paragraph and amendment under debate, in order to take up the following:

That Congress will make each of the commissioners for negotiating a treaty with the Indians, an adequate compensation for his time and services; and that the Superintendant of finance be directed to advance each of them eight hundred dollars on account. And on the question to postpone for the purpose above-mentioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [David] Howell,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	div.
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	div.
Wadsworth,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	div.
Montgomery,	no	
Delaware,		
Mr. Bedford,	ay	ay
Tilton,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Chase,	no	*
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	ay	
Hardy,	no	no
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	no	no
Spaight,	no	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	no	no
Beresford,	no	

So the question was lost.

A motion was then made by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [Jacob] Read, To postpone the consideration of the paragraph under debate, together with the amendment proposed, in order to take up the following: "That each of the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, be allowed seven dollars a day for his services and expences:" And on the question for postponing, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

New Hampshire,			*Delaware,*		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay	Mr. Bedford,	no	no
Blanchard,	ay		Tilton,	no	
Massachusetts,			*Maryland,*		*
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay	Mr. Chase,	ay	
Partridge	ay		*Virginia,*		
Rhode Island,			Mr. Jefferson,	ay	
Mr. Ellery,	ay	div.	Hardy,	ay	ay
Howell,	no		Lee,	ay	
Connecticut,			Monroe,	ay	
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay	*North Carolina,*		
Wadsworth,	ay		Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
New Jersey,			Spaight,	ay	
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay	*South Carolina,*		
Dick,	ay		Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Pennsylvania,			Beresford,	ay	
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	div.			
Montgomery,	no				

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

A motion was then made by Mr. [William] Ellery, seconded by Mr. [John] Beatty, to strike out the word "seven," in the motion before the house, and in lieu thereof to insert "six:"

And on the question to agree to this amendment, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [William] Ellery,

New Hampshire,		no
Mr. Foster,	no	
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		no
Mr. Gerry,	no	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		ay
Mr. Ellery,	ay	
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		div.
Mr. Sherman,	no	
Wadsworth,	ay	
New Jersey,		ay
Mr. Beatty,	ay	
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		no
Mr. Mifflin,	no	
Montgomery,	no	
Delaware,		div.
Mr. Bedford,	no	
Tilton,	ay	
Maryland,		*
Mr. Chase,	no	
Virginia,		no
Mr. Jefferson,	no	
Hardy,	no	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		no
Mr. Williamson,	no	
Spaight,	no	
South Carolina,		*
Mr. Read,	no	

So the question was lost.

Ordered, That the further consideration of the motion be postponed till to-morrow.[1]

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery, and from the State of South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

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[1] On this day, according to the indorsement, a letter of John Allan, dated February 9, 1784, was read. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 58, folio 67.

Also, a letter of Joshua Barney, dated March 6, 1784. It was referred to the Agent of Marine. It is in No. 78, IV, folio 383.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1784.

Only four states attending; namely, Massachusetts, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Rhode Island, Mr. [David] Howell; from Connecticut, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and from South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery, and from the State of South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

The president being absent through indisposition, Congress proceeded to the choice of a chairman; and, the ballots being taken, Mr. Thomas Jefferson was elected.

A motion was made by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [Jacob] Read,

"That an addition be made of one commissioner, to those appointed on the 4th instant to negotiate with the Indians of the northern and middle departments."

And on the question to agree to this, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

New Hampshire,			*Massachusetts,*		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay	Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay		Partridge,	ay	

from 1784
Sir John Johnson
Sir
11th March Recd 13th—
Estimate Expses
Mohawk Indians—

Montreal 11th March 1784—

Captain Brant and David have desired me to acquaint your Excellency that their business at this time is to propose a Settlement of the Mohawks and others on the Grand River About twenty Miles from the head of Lake Ontario, their Reasons are Politick, and no doubt good— the Mohawks here are determined to abide by their first resolution of settling About the Bay of Kenty, the Chiefs John and Isaac preferring the Rule of a few to the Risk of losing their Consequence Among the Whole.—

I Returned from Pointe Maligne last Monday Evening too late to Write by Post, or I would have Informed your Excellency that the Morning after I arrived at the Surveyors Camp Opposite St Regis, being Sunday, I was Waited upon by a great Number of the Chiefs and Warriors of that Village

His Excellency General Haldimand

who had Watched my Arrival - After the usual Cerimony they began by Approving of my endeavours to reestablish those Unfortunate People Who had followed my Example and shared my fate in the Service of our King and Country at the same time they said, they thought it would be unjust in their father to take away from them, Who had acted by our desire, in the same Cause, the lands they had always looked upon as theirs, to make up the loſses, he had been the cause of, to others, without being consulted or our intentions even made known to them - they hoped, as I was Appointed for the Management of their Affairs, that I would not see any injustice done them, and that I would represent their Claim to your Excellency which is from the River au Raisin Six Leagues in Depth to a Creek a little above the Long Sault - they say their Deeds or papers for this tract Was burnt in their Church When it was Consumed, and that they were promised by my father to have it Confirmed to them that Col. Claus knows their Claim, and that the Canadians and others always conceiving it to be their Right paid them considerable Sums of Money for liberty to Cut Timber thereon — I told them I thought your Excellency Would not have sent us up to those lands were you not Well

Aſsured they were the property of the Crown, for if they had had a Grant of them, it Must have been Recorded and Consequently known to You — I Asked them in case Your Excellency should be inclined to think they had some Right to those lands and Wished to Indulge them. Wether they would not be Willing to relinquish their Claim to twoo or three Leagues in Depth from the beforementioned River to the Long Saut, for a Reasonable Compensation, they said it was a Matter of Weight, and Merited Serious consideration and that they would Aſsemble the Whole of their People, and send me an Answer as soon as poſsible, in the Mean time the People might Settle themselves ——

Previous to this Meeting I had sent for Mr Kotte, Who was met by a party that was sent to Aſsist him, the day before at Mille Roche, to come down and fix on one of two places that Mr McNiff and myself thought would be the Most Eligible for the Town, recommending to him at the same time After the Town Plott was surveyed, and a few Lotts laid out in Front, an immediate Survey of the Townships for five Companies on each Side of the Town, in preference to Running the line along the River

from

Long Sault to Point au Baudet, as the land would thereby be ready much sooner for the People to settle on – but least the Indians might stop the Survey, I wrote to Mr. Kotte again, as I came off before he arrived, that I thought it would be best to begin at Mr. Longueils line, and lay out as many Townships as the Space would admit of between that and the River au Raisin, which is indisputable and in the Mean time he might receive Your Excellency's further Instructions – Should the Claim prove Groundless, which I believe will be the Case, they merit a severe Reprimand, and I wish it to be communicated to them through Colonels Campbell or Claus, as I am in some measure a party Concerned, and they would think my own and Peoples Interest and not theirs to be the Rule of my Conduct, and to have occasioned it –

David who accompanies Captain Brant has by some means been left out of the Pay list for Niagara ever since Colonel Johnson left it, tho' he is Returned to me as an Interpreter, he expects his pay, and will be much dissatisfied without it. Should therefore be glad to know if I am to draw for it in my next Accounts –

By desire of the Mohawks I transmit their Estimate of Losses – and have the honor to be

With great Respect
Sir
Your Excellency's
most obedient and
most humble Servant
John Johnson

Colonel Claus has just now delivered me the enclosed State of the Claim of the St. Regis Indians

And on the question to agree to this amendment, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [William] Ellery,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	no
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	ay
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	div.
Wadsworth,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	no	no
Montgomery,	no	
Delaware,		
Mr. Bedford,	no	div.
Tilton,	ay	
Maryland,		*
Mr. Chase,	no	
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	no	
Hardy,	no	no
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	no	no
Spaight,	no	
South Carolina,		*
Mr. Read,	no	

So the question was lost.

Ordered, That the further consideration of the motion be postponed till to-morrow.[1]

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery, and from the State of South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

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[1] On this day, according to the indorsement, a letter of John Allan, dated February 9, 1784, was read. It is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 58, folio 67.

Also, a letter of Joshua Barney, dated March 6, 1784. It was referred to the Agent of Marine. It is in No. 78, IV, folio 383.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1784.

Only four states attending; namely, Massachusetts, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Rhode Island, Mr. [David] Howell; from Connecticut, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and from South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery; from Delaware, Mr. [James] Tilton, and from South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery, and from the State of South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

The president being absent through indisposition, Congress proceeded to the choice of a chairman; and, the ballots being taken, Mr. Thomas Jefferson was elected.

A motion was made by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [Jacob] Read,

"That an addition be made of one commissioner, to those appointed on the 4th instant to negotiate with the Indians of the northern and middle departments."

And on the question to agree to this, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

New Hampshire,			*Massachusetts,*		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay	Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay		Partridge,	ay	

Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	div
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	no	no
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		*
Mr. Montgomery,	ay	
Delaware,		
Mr. Bedford,	ay	ay
Tilton,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	ay	ay
Hardy,	ay	
Lee,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		*
Mr. Read,	ay	

So the question was lost.

The secretary having, agreeable to order, prepared and laid before Congress, the form of a commission for the persons appointed to negotiate with the Indians; the same was agreed to, as follows:

The United States in Congress Assembled

To all who shall see these presents send Greeting:

Whereas, we have judged it proper that one or more convention or conventions be held with the Indians residing within the boundaries of the United States of America in the northern and middle departments comprehending the whole of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations and all to the northward and westward of them and as far south as the Cherokees exclusive, for the purposes of receiving them into the favour and protection of the United States and of establishing boundary lines of property for separating and dividing the settlements of the citizens of the United States of America from the Indian villages and hunting grounds and thereby extinguishing as far as possible all occasion of future animosities, disquiet and vexation;

Now, therefore, Know Ye that we reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity, prudence and ability of our trusty and beloved George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcot, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higgenson, have nominated, constituted

and appointed and by these presents do nominate constitute and appoint them the said George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcot, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higgenson our commissioners giving and granting to them and to any three of them full power and authority for us and in our name to confer, treat, agree and conclude with the said Indians or with any nation or tribe of Indians within the boundaries of the United States or bordering thereon in the northern and middle departments aforesaid, of and concerning the establishment of peace with the said Indians, extinguishing their claims and settling boundaries between them and the citizens of the United States, in as ample form and with the same effect as if we were personally present and acted therein, hereby promising to hold valid and to fulfil and execute whatever shall be agreed upon, concluded and signed by our said commissioners or any three of them.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of the United States of America to be hereunto affixed, witness his Excellency Thomas Mifflin, president of the United States in Congress assembled this twelfth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four and of our Sovereignty and independence the eighth.

Congress took into consideration the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Samuel] Osgood, Mr. [Arthur] Lee and Mr. [William] Ellery, in answer to the address from the house of representatives of the State of Connecticut, enclosed in Mr. Williams's letter, of the 1 November, and the following paragraph being under debate, respecting the resolution granting half pay for life to the officers of the army.

"The resolution of Congress referred to, appears by the yeas and nays, to have been passed according to the then established rules of that body in transacting the business of the United States; the resolution itself had public notoriety, and does not appear to have been formally objected against by the legislature of any State till after the Confederation was completely adopted, nor till after the close of the war."

A motion was made by Mr. [David] Howell, seconded by Mr. [Arthur] Lee, to strike out the words, "nor till after the close of the war."

And on the question, shall those words stand the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Arthur] Lee,

New Hampshire,		no
Mr. Foster,	no	
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		no
Mr. Gerry,	no	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		no
Mr. Ellery,	no	
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		no
Mr. Sherman,	no	
Wadsworth,	no	
New Jersey,		*
Mr. Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		*
Mr. Montgomery,	ay	
Delaware,		no
Mr. Bedford,	no	
Tilton,	no	
Virginia,		no
Mr. Jefferson,	no	
Hardy,	no	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		ay
Mr. Williamson,	ay	
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		*
Mr. Read,	ay	

So the question was lost, and the words were struck out.

The Committee [Mr. William Ellery, Mr. Jacob Read and Mr. Hugh Williamson] to whom the Report of the Committee of Qualifications, and a proposed amendment thereto were referred submit the following report.

Whereas the federal year begins on the first Monday in November, and great inconveniencies may be avoided by the several States annually electing their delegates to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November in every year.

Therefore, Resolved, That such states as have not already adopted that mode of appointment be requested to ~~enact laws for~~ make the annual appointment of their respective delegates to Congress in such manner as that the time of their annual services may commence on the first monday in November in every year.

Resolved, That computing the time of the services of M^r Osgood from the first monday in November, 1781, he will not have served

as a delegate to Congress three federal years until the first monday in November next.[1]

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and from the State of Pensylvania, Mr. [John] Montgomery.

The standing committee of qualification, consisting of Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [John] Beatty, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase and Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, appointed to examine the commissions or credentials of the members that are, or may be in Congress till the first Monday of November next, and to report thereon, from time to time, to Congress, report,

That the delegates from the State of Delaware, now in Congress, were appointed on the first day of February, 1783, to represent that State in Congress, the ensuing year; that under said appointment, one of the members present took his seat in Congress on the 10th day of March, and the other on the 22d day of September, 1783. Whereupon, the committee are of opinion, that the year for which the said delegates were appointed, expired on the 1 day of February last.[2]

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[1] This report, in the writing of William Ellery, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 23, folio 239. The indorsement states that it was read on this day; Saturday, 13th, assigned for consideration and on March 15, 1784, referred to the Committee on Qualifications.

On this, or an approximate date, was read a letter of March 10 from the Superintendent of Finance. It is in No. 137, III, folio 463.

[2] This report, in the writing of Roger Sherman, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 23, folio 375. A copy is on folio 379.

as to assist Captain Wood in examining the Naval Stores at this Place, directed by an Order of Yesterday, to be delivered into the Quarter Master Generals Stores.

I am Sir &c (Signed) R Mathews

Sir John Johnson, Bart. Head Quarters Quebec 15th March 1784

Sir

I have been favored With Your Letter of the 11th Instant by Captn. Brant & David with Whom I have fully Conversed upon the Subject of the Settlement they So Much Wish to form on the Grand River Above the Head of the Lake Ontario. — After examining the Situation of the Country upon the Map, and considering the Reasons Which induce Joseph to this Measure I am clearly of Opinion that an Accomplishment of it, is Much to be Desired — I have Communicated my Ideas upon it to Joseph, and have promised Him every encouragement in My Power towards the Success

Reasons which incline Joseph to this Measure
I am clearly of Opinion that an Accomplishment
of it, is much to be Desired — I have Communicated
my Ideas upon it to Joseph, and have promised Him
every encouragement in my Power towards the Success
of it. He tells me that Col. Butler is persuaded
he can purchase the Right of the Lands from the
Missisagues for a very Trifling Consideration — You have
therefore my Authority to instruct Him upon that
Subject whenever it shall be thought best. after the
necessary Steps for carrying the Matter into execution
shall be decided upon with Joseph & his adherents in
their Plan — He informs me that altho the Mohawks
here, have not at first entered into his Ideas, they
will soon perceive the Advantages of extending
themselves into so fine a Country, forming

a

a Communication with the Delawares and other Indians Who are Settled there, and Strengthening themselves by the Emigration of Some of the Six Nations who it Seems are not inclined to remove to the Bay of Quinte. — I nevertheless intend to reserve that Spot for Such of the Indians Who may Wish at present, or in a future Day, to Settle there.

I am Sorry that any Obstacle should Occur respecting the Lands opposite to St. Regis intended for the Settlement of Your Regiment — I have had the Register Carefully examined, and find that no Grant Was ever Made, of the Lands in Question, to Indians, Per Gourdan, or any other Person Whosoever in their behalf — Pains must be taken to Convince them that Such a thing Could not possibly have happened Without its being Registered in the Books of the their behalf — Pains must be taken to Convince them that such a thing Could not possibly have happened Without its being Registered in the Books of the Province, & if Pere Gourdan really told them he was possessed of any such Deed, he Must have deceived them. —— Your Answer to them Was Very Proper, and altho' they ~~[illegible]~~ have not a Legal Right to the Lands, as they have been taught to Consider them as their Property, and have been in the Custom of reaping advantages from them, together with the Consideration of the Americans having encroached so Much upon them with their Boundary Line I do not think it would be political or Right to Contend the Point with them, provided they are to be Satisfied on reasonable Terms. they May ere long find it necessary, or Wish to Cross the River and their Settling near the Loyalists Might Produce a good Effect. ——

Your reasons for ~~declaring~~ Wishing to decline being the Chanel of any Intercourse With them painful to them, are very Prudent, & Should that be necessary it will naturally fall to the Share of Col: Campbell under Whose direction they have been throout the War, I have not Yet had an Opportunity of Mentioning the Circumstance to Him, but by the next Post I Shall write more decisively upon it — You did perfectly right to employ Mr. Kotte in the Meantime Where no dispute Could arise, but I hope he may proceed in the Survey without risk of having any. —— From every Account I have received of David, his Conduct Merits our good offices, please therefore to do Whatever You think right respecting his Pay as Interpreter. I am &c

(Signed) Fred: Haldimand

Montreal 15th March 178

Sir

I have been honored with your letter o
the 4th Instant, and cannot help expressing my Surprise
the Contents of Major Hollands that was enclosed therein,
Especially When I reflect upon the dates and purport of the
enclosed Extract, and have reference to my own letters to y
upon the same Subject, previous to the parties being sent off, W
you know Sir, was done by the Commander in Chiefs desire,
after the Return of Men had been sent into Major Holland

It was from the Number of Men that was employed a
Cataraqui, and the Manner in Which we understood the
lines were Run and laid Open there, that we Supposed
Number of hands employed would be Necessary, especially
this Season, and at the distance they were to Work at from th
Inhabitants, where it was Absolutely Necessary to lay in a
Store

Major Mathews

of Provision, and to have Men to take care of it, and to follow the Surveyors & party with what they might stand in immediate need of, the Communication being liable soon to be cut off by the Breaking up of the Ice & Swamps —

I enclose herewith an Account of the Expenditure of the Amount of the Different Warrants granted me by His Excellency General Haldimand for the defraying of Indian Expenses the one I left with him when last at Quebec being Erroneous, having Omitted a small Charge and given Credit for a small Warrant Accounted for before —

I also enclose by desire of Col. Claus a Draught of the lands the Mohawks wish to have a Grant for. I believe it Includes part of the lands that are Already Surveyed —

I beg you will lay the enclosed letter from Mr. Pollard before His Excellency, his case is hard. And the Goods may be wanted should none Arrive from England as promised — I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
John Johnson

from A 1784.

Sr. John Johnson —

15th March Recd. 17th —

concerning Mr. Pollard

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the state of South Carolina, Mr. [Jacob] Read.

A motion being made by Mr. [John] Montgomery, seconded by Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson,

That one commissioner be appointed in addition to the five already chosen, to negotiate with the Indians ~~of the northwest~~, and to-morrow assigned for that purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [George] Partridge, to amend by inserting the words, "from the State of New York," immediately after the word "commissioner." On this amendment the previous question was moved by the State of Rhode Island, seconded by the State of Connecticut, and on the question to agree to the previous question, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	ay
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	div.
Montgomery,	no	
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	ay	no
Hardy,	no	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	no	div.
Spaight,	ay	

So the question was lost.

On the question to agree to the amendment, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

New Hampshire,			
Mr. Foster,	no	no	
Blanchard,	no		
Massachusetts,			
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay	
Partridge,	ay		
Rhode Island,			
Mr. Ellery,	no	no	
Howell,	no		
Connecticut,			
Mr. Sherman,	no	no	
Wadsworth,	no		
New Jersey,			
Mr. Beatty,	no	no	
Dick,	no		
Pennsylvania,			
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay	
Montgomery,	ay		
Virginia,			
Mr. Jefferson,	ay		
Hardy,	ay	ay	
Lee,	ay		
Monroe,	ay		
North Carolina,			
Mr. Williamson,	ay	div.	
Spaight,	no		

So the question was lost.

The original motion was then withdrawn.

The Committe consisting of Mr [Jeremiah Townley] Chase [Mr. David Howell and Mr. Roger Sherman] to whom was referred a motion made by Mr [David] Howell respecting western territory, submit the following report,

Whereas Congress by their resolution of the 6th of September, 1780, recommended to the States having claims to the western country, to pass such laws and give their delegates in Congress such powers as effectually to remove the only obstacle to a final ratification of the Articles of Confederation; and whereas in consequence thereof the legislature of the State of Maryland authorized their delegates to ratify the said articles on behalf of that State, at the same time declaring, "that by acceding to the said confederation, "this State doth not relinquish, any right or interest she hath, with "the other United or Confederated States to the back country; but "claims the same as fully as was done by the legislature of this "State in their declaration which stands entered on the journals of "Congress: this State relying on the justice of the several States "hereafter as to the said claim made by this State." And whereas similar claims have at different times been made by several of the other States, on the ground that said territory was formerly claimed by the King of Great Britain, who was divested thereof by the joint exertions and common expense of the United States. And whereas the States of New York and Virginia have ceeded to the United States part of their claims to the said territory which have been accepted by the United States in Congress, but no act hath been done to quiet or recognize the right of said States to the residue; And whereas an amicable settlement of all disputes respecting the territorial claims aforesaid would promote harmony among the States and strengthen their federal union.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to those States who still claim large tracts of western territory within the limits of the United States, to authorize their delegates in Congress to make liberal cessions out of said claims to the United States, and ~~that the same may be satisfactory to~~ instruct them previously to confer with a committee of Congress in order to agree on what cessions it may be proper for such States to make, and the United States to accept, ~~in order to~~ that so an amicable and final settlement may be made of all disputes on that subject and ~~settlement may be made of all disputes on that subject~~ the said States be entitled to the guaranty contained in the articles of Confederation for securing to them the residue of their claims, That the result of such conference be reported to Congress and to the Legislatures of the said States respectively, for their approbation and final ratification.

To commit: Mr [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr [Thomas] Jefferson.[1]

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1784.

Congress assembled: present as yesterday.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Jacob] Read and Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, to whom were referred a letter of November 1, and one of December 25, from Doctr Franklin, with sundry papers enclosed, together

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[1] This report, in the writing of Roger Sherman, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 47. The indorsement states that it was read on this day and on March 16, 1784, referred to the grand committee. Committee Books, Nos. 186 and 191, show that the grand committee reported March 22.

On this day, as the indorsement states, was read a letter of March 13 from Henry Remsen, Jr. It is in No. 78, XIX, folio 463.

Niagara, 17th March 1784

Sir,

"Little Beard and Peterus, with several other Indians that went with a Message to General Schuyler last fall, is at last returned (as they say) in forty two days from the settlements, their tedious march was owing to the severe weather, and the vast quantity of Snow, they brought General Schuyler's Speech, directed to Captain Brant, a Copy of which I herewith inclose, and also a Copy of the Definitive Treaty, together with the proceedings at a meeting held by the Six Nations in presence of the Officers of the Garrison &ca in consequence of that Speech."

"The Six Nation Indians appears very anxious indeed to have that Speech communicated to all their Confederates and Allies, and a warm invitation given to all their great and Wise men to attend at the General Treaty, mutually to consult, and fix upon some measures that may lead to their Interest, and safety; they think by calling all the principle men of their Brethren together, and acting in conjunction with your good advise, which they hope to receive on the occasion, will be of great use to them on the Day of the General Treaty."

"The Chiefs also say, that, they have during the late War; exerted themselves every thing in their power, and done every thing that was desired of them, therefore they are fully persuaded that he will not forsake them at this critical time; — but

Brigad. Genl. Sir John Johnson

when they reflect on the contraction, or scarcity of presents the last fall, and that before they could help themselves, let alone their families, and a number of distressed people by Hunting, almost induces them to think their Father means to leave them in that melancholly situation, that General Schuyler takes so much pains to inform them off. — I have wrote Mr McKee and Captn Brant agreeable to the Indian's request, they are very anxious indeed for Joseph's return". —

"A young man (a son of Isaac's) who accompanied Peterus &ca to Schenectady, informed David Karaghkunty, since the Meeting, that Peterus was frequently in private with General Schuyler, and a Cahawaghare Indian by name Grasshopper; who have in conjunction sent a warm and friendly invitation (in private) to all the Oneidas, Aughquagoes, Canoughsaragas, and Tuscaroras, now with us, to return to their former possessions, on which they shall be protected, and have peaceable possession, on the (addition) Lands as far as the old Onondaga Town, from thence to Owego on the Susquehanna; and also the Lands East of that River, that was allotted to the Aughquagos in 1768. — this information has already kindled some Jealousy, and very likely to create a good deal of uneasiness, Yesterday Karahunty brought the Indian to me to vindicate his reporting Peterus guilt, who declared the above to be true, with this addition that the young man asked Peterus why he did not call the Indians of them four Villages together, and deliver the

" meſsage he had to them, the latter answered no, but that
" he knew the Chiefs whose Ears he could whisper into with
" safety and be kept a profound secret; and that he would
" Advise them not to go away in a Body, but careleſsly
" Drop off, and travel by one, or two Canoes at a time,
" Karakunty has promised me, that he will endeavor to
" ferret all these hidden deceptions.—I expect the Indians
" will soon receive the Answer from Congreſs, that General
" Schuyler alludes to in his Speech, at which time you may
" Expect an expreſs will be sent to acquaint you with
" every particular; and by the same Opportunity I will
" transmit to you the accounts. Returns &ca, &ca"—

Extract of a Letter from Lieut. Col.l Butler, to Sir John Johnson Baronet, dated Niagara, 17th March 1784.

Received inclosed in Sir John Johnson's Letter of the 8. april 1784

Copy Transmitted inclosed in a Letter to Lord North of the 28 april 84 (No 32) via N.Y.

Niagara 17th. March 1784

Sir,

Little Beard and Pilerus, with several other Indians that went with a Message to General Schuyler last fall, is at last returned (as they say) in forty two Days from the Settlements, their tedious march was owing to the severe Weather, and the vast quantity of Snow, they Brought General Schuylers Speech, directed to Captn. Brant, a Copy of which I herewith inclose, and also a Copy of the Definitive Treaty, together with the proceedings at a meeting held by the Six Nations in presence of the Officers of the Garrison ~~in~~ in consequence of ~~of~~ that Speech.—

The Six Nation Indians appears very anxious indeed to have that speech communicated to all their Confederates and Allies, and a Warm invitation given to all their great and Wise Men to attend at the General Treaty, mutually to consult, and fix upon some measures that may lead to their Interest and safety; they think by calling all the principle Men of their Brethren together, and acting in

Brigadr. Genl. Sir John Johnson

in conjunction with your good advice, which they hope to receive on the occasion, will be of great use to them on the Day of the General Treaty.—

The Chiefs also say, that they have during the late War, assisted the King every thing in their power, and done every thing that was desired of them, therefore they are fully persuaded that he will not forsake them at this critical time, but when they reflect on the contraction, or scarcity of presents the last fall and that before they could help themselves, let alone their families, and a number of distressed people by Hunting, almost induces them to think their Father means to leave them in that melancholly situation, that General Schuyler takes so much pains to inform them &c. — I have wrote Mr. McKee and Capt. Brant agreeable to the Indians request they are very anxious indeed for Joseph's return.—

A young Man (a Son of Isaac's) who accompanied Peterus &c. to Schenectady, informed David Karaguanta, since the meeting, that Peterus was frequently in private with General Schuyler, and a Canawarohare Indian by name, Grashopper, Who have in conjunction sent a warm and friendly invitation in private) to all the Oneidas, Aughquagas, Canoughsaragas, and Tuscaroras, now with us, to return to their former possessions, on which they shall be protected, and have peaceable possession, on the (addition) Lands as far as the old Onandaga Town, from thence to Oweygo on the Susquahanna, and also the Lands East of that River, that was allotted to the Aughquagas in 1768. - this information has already kindled some Jealousy, and very likely to create a good Deal of uneasiness, yesterday Keraquinta brought the Indian to me, to vindicate his reporting Peterus's guilt, who declared the above to be true, with this addition, that the young man asked Peterus why he did not call the Indians of them four Villages together and deliver the Message he had to them, the latter Answered no, but that he knew the Chiefs whose Ears he could wisper into with safety and be kept a profound secret, and that he would advise them not to go away in a Body, but carelessly drop off and travel by one or two Canoes at a time. Keraquinta has promised me that he will endeavour to ferret out all these hidden deceptions. I expect the Indians will soon receive the Answer from Congress, that General Schuyler alludes to in hi speech, at which time you may expect an expr will be sent to acquaint you with every particu and by the same opportunity I will transmit to the Provts Returns &c &c. —

Poor old Friel died the 5th Instant, an left a young helpless family, with very little to suppo them. — Lieut. Nellis accompanies the Indi to Canada, to whom I refer for any common circum -ances regarding the department. —

I have the Honor to be with due

Your obedient an
Humble Servan
Jno Butler

Niagara, 15th March 1778.
From Lieut. Col. Butler
On the receipt of Gen. Schuyler's
Speech to the Ind. &c.

The Council met.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, March 19th, 1784.

PRESENT:

His Excellency JOHN DICKINSON, Esq'r, President.

The Hon'ble James Irvine,	Sebastian Levan,	Esquires.
John M'Dowell,	John Boyd,	
George Wall, Jun'r,	John Byers,	

Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Esquire, was commissioned a Justice of the Peace, in & for the county of Philadelphia, upon a return made agreeably to law, for the district composed of the townships of Skippack, Perkioman, New Providence, and Limerick.

An order was drawn on the Treasurer in favor of Josiah Wood, for forty pounds specie, out of the monies arising from the one per cent. impost, he to be accountable, agreeably to resolution of the General Assembly of the eighteenth day of March, 1784, in part of his account for shovels.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Land Office be directed to deliver to Samuel J. Atlee, William Maclay, and Francis Johnston, Esquires, Commissioners for holding a treaty with the Indians, or either of them, such Indian deeds and other papers of his office, as the said Commissioners may think necessary, the better to enable them to proceed in said business, and that he take a receipt for the same.

A letter from the merchants of Philadelphia, of this day, was received and read.

The following orders were drawn on the Treasurer, vizt:

In favor of Thomas Bradford, for eighty-one pounds fourteen shillings specie, in full of his account for public printing.

In favor of James Mercer, for thirty-three pounds eighteen shillings and five pence, and forty-eight pounds eight shillings and eight pence, State money, in full of two certificates for horses furnished for public use, to be paid according to resolution of the eighth day of April, 1782.

Alexander McClean, John Gaddis, and James Findley, Esqr's, were commissioned Justices of the Peace for the county of Fayette, upon a return made agreeably to law, for the town of Union, and a dedimus potestatem was issued to Alexander McClean and Ephraim Douglass, Esquires, of the said county.

19 Matthias Slough,
20 Joseph Work,
21 Adam Hubley,
22 William Parr,
23 Robert Coleman,
24 Moses M'Clean,
25 John Hay,
26 Robert M'Pherson,
27 Joseph Magoffin,
28 Henry Miller,
29 Philip Gardner,
30 David M'Conaughy,
31 James Johnston,
32 Jacob Stroud,
33 Robert Brown,
34 George Woods,
35 Robert Cluggage,
37 William Maclay,
38 Matthew Ritchie,

NAYS.

1 William Brown,
2 James Mercer,
3 John Craig,
4 Adam Orth,
5 William Brown (Carlisle)
6 Frederick Watts,
7 John Carothers,
8 Abraham Smith,
9 Robert Whitehill,
10 Nicholas Lutz,
11 Christian Lower,
12 Abraham Lincoln,
13 John Rice,
14 Thomas Morton,
15 Richard Wallace,
16 John Stephenson.

So it was carried in the affirmative, and the paragraph agreed to.

5th. That the said Agents be instructed to prepare themselves for maintaining the right of soil within the territory aforesaid to be vested in Pennsylvania, and persons claiming under Pennsylvania; for justifying the conduct of this State from the charges contained in the act of the General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut, of the second Thursday of October last; and for opposing the attempt of the said State to obtain a revision of the cause lately determined at Trenton.

Indorsed.—Resolutions and proceedings of General Assembly respecting the Wyoming lands, Dec., Jan'y and Feb'y, 1783 & 1784.*

RESOLUTION OF THE 19TH CONGRESS, 1784.

By the United States in Congress Assembled,
March 19th, 1784.

On the report of a Committee to whom were referred the fourth and fifth of the instructions of the 15th of October, 1783, to the Commissioners for negociating with the Indians, Resolved, That the said fourth and fifth articles of the instructions of the 15th of October, 1783, to the Commissioners for negociating with the Indians be and they are hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following be substituted.

4thly, That a Meridian line passing through the lowest point of the rapids of Ohio to the northern boundary of these United States shall be proposed as the line of Division between the several Indian tribes, and these States; so that all the lands comprehended between the said Boundary on the north, the Ohio on the South, the said Meridian on the west, and Pensylvania on the East, or so much thereof as the tribes having title thereto may be induced to part with shall be ceded to the United States, and possession thereof or of any parts thereof be given to the United States, at such times as may be agreed upon in the treaty.

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* They are detached portions of the printed Journals brought together in one view.

5thly, The said Commissioners are instructed as far as they shall find it convenient to treat with the several nations at different times and places; and where necessity shall oblige them to bring two or more nations together That they still keep their treaties and conferences as distinct as may be; that they countenance every disposition in any one of the Six nations, to treat and act separately and independantly; and that in general they discourage every coalition & consultation which might tend to involve any one nation in the wars of the others.

Resolution of Congress, 1784.

By the United States in Congress assembled.

March 23, 1784.

On the report of the committee of qualifications, consisting of Mr. Sherman, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Beatty, Mr. Chase and Mr. Williamson,—

Whereas by the fifth of the articles of confederation and perpetual union of the United States, it is agreed, "That for the more convenient management of the general interest of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the legislature of each state shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each state, to recal its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead, for the remainder of the year."

Resolved, That the several states be requested annually to appoint their delegates to serve in Congress for one year, to commence on the first Monday in November next ensuing the time of their appointment; and when vacancies shall happen, by the removal or resignation of any of the said delegates within the year, such states be requested to appoint others in their stead, to serve only for the remainder of the year; and to furnish their delegates so appointed with commissions, or other credentials, under the seal of the state, particularly specifying the time for which they are appointed.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

should be considered as loaned, and that he is justly entitled to interest thereon, and that, considering every circumstance, it should commence the first day of May, 1777.

[*Resolved,* That an interest of six per cent. per annum, from the first day of May, 1777, be allowed to Mr. Cazeau, on the above advances, and on the amount of the articles so purchased and collected.]

Resolved, That the Superintendant of finance be, and he hereby is directed to advance to Mr. Cazeau, the sum of five thousand dollars on account, and to order his account to be adjusted, and give him certificates for the payment of the balance at such early and convenient times, as the finances of the United States will admit of.

The Committee are of opinion that for the present, Congress can come to no determination with respect to compensation for the losses he hath sustained in his real and personal estate, from the consideration of his services to these States during the late contest, and that a decision upon that head be postponed until Congress can fully investigate and come to some general determination upon the propriety and justice of all claims of a similar nature.

Resolved, That in settling the accounts of Mr. Cazeau, his own testimony, under oath, be admitted in support of such other evidence as the circumstances of the case will admit.[1]

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present as yesterday.

Mr. [John Francis] Mercer, a delegate for Virginia, attended.

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[1] This report, in the writing of James Monroe, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 19, I, folio 561; the final paragraph, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is on folio 559½. A copy of the report, in Charles Thomson's writing, is on folio 555. The paragraph in brackets was not in the original report, but was substituted, during the debate, for the paragraph immediately preceding it. This substitution is indicated on Thomson's copy.

The report of the committee on a letter of 6 November, 1783, from the legislature of New Hampshire, touching the proceedings and sentence of the court of Appeals in cases of capture, on the case of the brig *Lusannah*, as entered on the journal of the 21 January last, being taken up for debate,

A motion was made by Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, that the consideration of the report be postponed, in order to take up the following:

"That the petition of John Penhallow, and others, and the papers accompanying the same, be referred to the Judges of the court of Appeals; and that the said judges do report to Congress their proceedings, judgment and final decree in the same."

On the question to postpone for the purpose above-mentioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Abiel] Foster,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	no
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	div.
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	div.
Montgomery,	no	
Maryland,		
Mr. Chase,	no	*
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	ay	ay
Hardy,	ay	
Mercer,	no	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So the question was lost.

The previous question was then moved on the main question by the State of South Carolina, seconded by the State of Massachusetts; and on the question to agree to the previous question, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Abiel] Foster,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	no
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	no	div.
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	no	no
Montgomery,	no	
Maryland,		
Mr. Chase,	ay	*
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	no	no
Hardy,	ay	
Mercer,	no	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	no	div.
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So the question was lost.

When the question was about to be put on the resolution reported by the committee, the determination thereof was postponed by the State of North Carolina.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [David] Howell and Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, to whom were referred the fourth and fifth of the instructions of the 15 of October, 1783, to the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians,

Resolved, That the said fourth and fifth articles of the instructions of the 15 of October, 1783, to the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians be and they are hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof the following be substituted:

4thly. That a meridian line passing through the lowest point of the rapids of Ohio to the northern boundary of these United States

~~comprehending all the lands between the said boundary on the north, the Ohio on the south, the said meridian on the west and Pensylvania on the east, or so much thereof as the nation having title thereto may be induced to yield shall be ceded to the United States shall be agreed on as the dividing~~

shall be proposed as the line of division between the several Indian tribes and these states, so that all the lands comprehended between the said boundary on the north, the Ohio on the south, the said meridian on the west and Pensylvania on the east or so much thereof as the tribes having title thereto may be induced to part with shall be ceded to the United States and at such times as may be agreed upon in the treaty possession thereof or of any part thereof be given to the United States.

~~5thly. The interests and happiness of the Indians as well as of the inhabitants of the United States requiring that every circumstance should be avoided which may lead to hostile dispositions between them, and the meeting of several nations in one council having a tendency to generate combinations for the purposes of war.~~

5thly. The said commissioners are instructed as far as they shall ~~be in their power~~ find it convenient to treat with ~~every tribe~~ the several nations at different times and places and where necessity shall oblige them to bring two or more ~~tribes~~ nations together that they still keep their treaties and conferences as distinct as may be. ~~That they make known to the Shawanese and Delawares that these United States consider them as independent nations, and will protect them as such~~ That they countenance every disposition in any one of the six nations to treat and act separately and independently ~~of this Confederacy~~; and that in general they discourage every coalition and consultation which might tend to involve any one ~~tribe in contests which any one of them may enter into with these United States.~~ nation in the wars of the others.[1]

On motion of Mr. [Roger] Sherman, seconded by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

Resolved, That the commissioners appointed to ~~treat~~ negotiate with the Indians, shall each be allowed six and an half dollars per day, for the time they shall be employed in that business, in full for their services and expences, exclusive of their expences at the place or places where the treaties shall be held.[2]

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [David] Howell and Mr. [Arthur] Lee, to whom was referred an additional report on Indian affairs,

Resolved, That the Superintendant of finance cause to be purchased a quantity of goods, to be ~~disposed of to the Indians at the opening of the proposed treaty with them.~~ applied in negotiating the treaty with the Indians, the amount not to exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, including those on hand, according to an estimate, specifying kinds, quantities and qualities, to be furnished by the commissioners for negotiating the treaty.

Resolved, That ~~a suitable person, with the allowance of ——— be appointed by Congress~~ the commissioners be, and they hereby are authorised and instructed, to appoint one or more suitable person or persons, with such allowance as they may think reasonable, to receive the aforesaid goods, to take charge of their transportation, to such place or places as may be pointed out by the said commissioners, and to attend to the safe keeping and issuing, agreeably to such orders as he or they may receive from the said commissioners, all goods committed to his or their care, which orders are to be produced as vouchers on the settlement of the accounts. [And that the Superintendant of finance furnish, to the Order of the said commissioners, the sums of money necessary for carrying this resolve into execution.]

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[1] This resolution was also entered in the manuscript Secret (Domestic) Journal. The report, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 213. The words lined out are so in the report and not in the Journals.

[2] This motion, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 215.

Resolved, That the said commissioners be, and they hereby are authorised and directed, to make and transmit to Congress, from time to time, estimates of such additional quantities of goods, as may be found necessary in the course of their negotiations, in order that proper measures may be taken for procuring and forwarding the same.

~~*Resolved,* That the Superintendent of Finance be directed to furnish the sums of money necessary for carrying into execution the preceding resolutions.~~

~~*Resolved,* That the Superintendant of Finance be directed to issue a warrant in favor of the said Commissioners on the Treasury, for a sum not exceeding Dollars, to be applied for the purchase and transportation of the said goods, agreeable to the second resolve.~~

~~That the Superintendant of Finance be directed to issue a warrant in favor of the said Commissioners on the Treasury, for a sum not exceeding Dollars, for the purposes mentioned in the preceding resolve).~~[1]

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina; and from the state of Pensylvania, Mr.

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[1] This report, in the writing of David Howell, except the part in parenthesis, which is in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 209. The part in brackets was brought into the adopted resolution from the first rejected resolution.

On this day, as the indorsement indicates, was read an address and memorial of James Span. It is in No. 41, XX, folio 273.

The Committee consisting of Mr Jefferson, Mr Howell & Mr Lee, to whom was committed an additional report on Indian Affairs, submit the following resolutions —

Resolved,

That the Superintendent of Finance cause to be purchased a quantity of goods to be ~~distributed~~ applied in negociating the Treaty with the Indians ~~to the Indians at the opening of the proposed~~ agd ~~Treaty with them~~, not exceeding the amount ~~of~~ not to agreed 15000 Dollars including those on hand, according to an estimate specifying kinds quantities & qualities to be furnished by the Commissioners for negotiating the Treaty.

Resolved,

That ~~a~~ The Commrs be authorised to appoint one or more a Person suitable person with such allowance & as they may think reasonable ~~be appointed by Congress~~ to receive the aforesd goods, to take charge of their transportation to such place or places as may be ~~ap~~pointed out by sd Commissioners ~~and~~ to attend to the safe keeping & issuing ~~all goods committed~~ agreeably to such written orders as he or they may ~~from~~ receive from sd Commissioners, all goods committed to his or their care. ~~& to produce to sd~~ which orders are to be produced as vouchers on the settlement of his accounts

Resolved,

That sd Commissioners be authorised & directed to make & transmit to Congress from time to time, estimates of such additional quantities of goods as may be ~~wanted~~ found necessary in the course of their negotiations, in order that proper measures may be taken for procuring & forwarding the same.

Resolved,

That the Superintendent of Finance be directed to furnish to the order of the Comm. the Sums of money necessary for carrying into execution the ~~above~~ ~~aforegoing~~ foregoing resolution. ~~issue a Warrant on~~

No 3.

on the Treasury for a Sum not exceeding Dollars to be applied for ~~the purchase &~~ transportation of ~~the~~ the sd Goods agreeable to the ~~or the 2d~~ sd Resolu

That the Superintendant of Finance be directed to issue a Warrant in favour of the sd Commissioners on the Treasury for a Sum not exceeding Dollars for the purposes mentioned in the preceding Resolu

Report of a Com^{ee}
to whom was recommitted
an additional report on
Indian Affairs.
M^{r} Jefferson
M^{r} Howell
M^{r} Williamson
Ent^{d}.. read. March 4. 1784
passed March 19

The Committee appointed to revise the 4th & 5th of the instructions of Oct. 15. 1783. given to the Commissioners for negotiating a treaty with the Indians have agreed to the following resolutions.

Resolved that the said 4th article be repealed & that instead thereof the following be substituted. 4thly that a meridian line passing through the lowest point of the Rapids of Ohio to the Northern boundary of these United states, shall be proposed as the ~~comprehending all the lands between the sd boundary on the North the Ohio on the South the sd meridian on the West and Pennsylvania on the East, or so much thereof as they nations having title thereto may be induced to yield consent to shall be ceded to the United states, shall be agreed on as the dividing~~ line of division between the several Indian tribes ~~nations~~ & these states, so that all the lands comprehended between the sd boundary on the North, the Ohio on the South, the sd meridian on the West and Pennsylvania on the East, or so much thereof as the tribes, having title thereto, may be induced to part with, shall be ceded to the United states.

Agreed

and the price thereof, or of any parts thereof to be paid to the U S at such times as may be agreed upon in the Treaty.

Resolved that the said 5th article be repealed & that instead thereof the following be substituted. 5thly ~~The interests & happiness of the Indians as well as of the inhabitants of the United states requiring that every circumstance should be avoided which may lead to hostile dispositions between them, and the meeting of several nations ~~tribes~~ in ~~at~~ one council having a tendency to generate combinations for the purposes of war,~~ the said Commissioners are instructed, as far as they shall find it convenient ~~be in their power~~, to treat with the several nations ~~every tribe~~ at different times & places; & where necessity shall oblige them to bring two or more nations ~~tribes~~ together, that they still keep their treaties & conferences as distinct as may be: ~~that they make known to the Shawanese & Delawares that the United states consider them as independent nations & will protect them as such~~; that they countenance every disposition in any one of the six nations to treat & act separately & independently ~~of the confederacy~~: and that in general they discourage every coalition & consultation which might tend to involve ~~the tribes in dependence lest any one of the confederates with the United states~~ any one nation ~~tribe~~ in the wars of the others.

Agreed to

Report of Mr Jefferson
Mr Howell
Mr Williamson
Arts 4 & 5 of instructions of
15 Oct 1783. to comrs for nego-
tiating with Indians
Entd.. read. 4 March 1784 —
passed 19 March 1784

Resolved, that the commiſsioners appointed to treat with the Indians shall each be allowed six and an half dollars per day for the time they shall be employed in that buſineſs in full for their services and expences, excluſive of their expences at the place or places where the treaties shall be held.

agreed to March 19

His Excellency
Governor Clinton

Annapolis March 22, 1784

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a packet directed to the Commiſsioners for treating with the Indians, who are to meet at New York on the 10th of April next; containing a Commiſsion and the Instructions of Congreſs relative to that Subject; which pacquet I have to request your Excellency will be pleased to order into their hands as ſoon as they ſhall convene at New York.

I enclose to your Excellency a Copy of the Instructions sent herewith for your Information. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem

Your Excellency's
Most Obedient and humble
Servant Thomas Mifflin

The Honorable
George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higginson Esqrs Commiſsioners at New York

Annapolis March 22 1784

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to transmit to you a Commiſsion under the seal of the United States authorizing you to treat with the Indians within the

bounda=

His Excellency
Governor Clinton

Annapolis March 22, 1784

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I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a packet directed to the Commiſsioners for treating with the Indians, who are to meet at New-York on the 10th of April next; containing a Commiſsion and the Instructions of Congreſs relative to that Subject; which pacquet I have to request your Excellency will be pleased to order into their hands as ſoon as they ſhall convene at New York.

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Your Excellency's
Most Obedient and humble
Servant Thomas Mifflin

The Honorable
George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higginson Esqrs Commiſsioners at New York.

Annapolis March 22 1784

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to transmit to you a Commiſsion under the seal of the United States authorizing you to treat with the Indians within the bound=

boundaries of the United States of America, in the northern and middle departments; comprehending the whole of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations; and all to the northward and westward of them, and as far South as the Cherokees exclusive; for the purpose of receiving them into the favour and protection of the United States, and of establishing boundary lines of Property for seperating and dividing the settlements of the Citizens of the United States of America, from the Indian Villages and hunting grounds, and thereby extinguishing, as far as possible, all Occasions of future Animosities, disquiet and Vexation.

I also transmit to you the several Acts of Congress of the 15th of October 1783 the 3. 4. 5th and 19th of March 1784 on that subject—

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Mifflin—

Circular

Annapolis March 25th 1784

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency an Act of Congress of the 23 Inst. relative to the appointment of Delegates to meet in Congress—

I have the honor to be with the greatest Respect Your Excellency's Obed. Sert

Thomas Mifflin

Speech from His Excellency General Haldimand
Governor, and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in the Province of Quebec &c &c &c
To the Six Nation Indians

Brothers of the Six united Nations

I take the Opportunity of Captain Brant's return to Niagara to Salute You, and to acquaint You that I have not yet received any answer from Home to the Representations I made to the King in Your favor last Year, when I transmitted Your Speeches upon the Subject of the Peace to be laid before Him. — The Season when I must receive Dispatches is approaching fast, and I shall not lose time in Communicating to You, whatever may arrive Concerning Your Interest — In the Mean time I have Only to recommend to You an Attention to the Support and Happiness of Your Families by the Cultivation of Your Lands, and resuming Your Hunting as before the War, in Expectation of Enjoying the blessings of a Lasting Peace

&c &c

Quebec the 21st March 1784

Speech

to the Six United Nations

24th March 1784

29th March 1784

15th Apl 1784

Claim of St Regis Indians

[illegible]

I move that the Committee that framed ye [illegible] the
May be directed to Receive the [illegible] & to take the
Letter of the Governor Mr [illegible] into Consideration
of these ppl

Je propose que le Comité qui a dressé l'adresse qui a été [illegible], &c

[illegible] Minutes of the [illegible]
[illegible] Indians of the village of St. Regis
respecting their claim to a tract
of Land from a Creek [illegible]
the long Sault to river Raisin
six leagues in depth.

Present
Lieut. Colonel Campbell Superintendant
and [illegible] Lieut. McDonnell 84th Regt.
Mr. Kotte Deputy Surveyor
Messrs. Lorimer & La Mothe Interpreters

Friday 29th March 1784 Lieut. Colonel Campbell sent a Message to the Indians of St. Regis to meet him on Thursday following at Coteau du Lac which they did accordingly.

He first sent in for two of ~~their principal~~ Chiefs in whom he could most depend to gain them over to his measures by insinuating to them that as he always remarked them to have the greatest share of sense amongst all his other Children of St. Regis and [illegible] as it upon the ears of the Young Folks and Young Men of that Village he was resolved he said, and knowing it to be of the utmost [illegible] that he was upon this occasion very glad to see them, least the unexperienced might be alarmed at any proposition from his Mouth, then he explained to the two Chiefs their inadmissable Claim and demand &c, and desired they should communicate it to their different Tribes before it was talked of in Public.

The two Chiefs returned to the Block House where the rest were lodged —

Colonel Campbell

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Colonel Campbell a considerable time afterwards till he judged his intentions had time to operate. Ordered the whole to assemble about twenty three in number and after the usual ceremonies on such occasions by giving them a String of Wampum to open their Ears and clear their understanding, with a little Tobacco to light their pipes, he addressed them nearly in the following Speech

Children, You must recollect at Lachine the great War Your Father then received a letter from Sir John Johnson which mentioned Your having objected to the Loyalists settling upon the Lands in Question alledging that You have a prior right or claim to that tract. I must acquaint You that before I granted these Lands to Your Brothers the Loyalists I searched every place and all the Records of the Province ~~[illegible]~~ find any other person had a right nor any could find none -

These Lands belonging to the King Your great Father and protected with the Water. He gave to Your Brothers his other Children that were obliged to leave their own property to come to this Country under his protection from the Rebels, at the same time he did not forget You or thought in the least to have encroached on any part of Your Lands --

Now I wish to be made acquainted with Your pretensions to these Lands as it is a matter of indulgence entirely proceeding from Your Great Father below and his wish to favor You upon every occasion in his power, to send me at this time to offer a favorable compensation in money or goods

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So you having been in use to reap some benefit from the lands as belonging to us by our Village and Islands as these lands are taken away now and if you came to get back the Islands this moment a little time ago your Father may now, must [illegible] you [illegible] that we [illegible] ask nothing that will make us feel, in that you will go along in pursuits with that [illegible] moderation good conduct, and fidelity, which so often distinguished you."

"Attention to these is better than [illegible] [illegible] insured."

Father, we have then here called our Chiefs and come here this day to meet you and to hear your words we are very glad to see you, because ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ us, when we saw number of People coming to settle on our Lands and to take the Indian boundaries about our village and great Drummers [illegible] amongst our Chiefs, Warriors, Women and Children, to see our Lands going away to our Brothers [illegible] we know well then [illegible], and you cannot but know that we lost our blood also in that War.

Father, you ask us whereso what pretensions we have to these Lands, we shall tell you the whole history of it.

When Genl. Du Haine was in this country these lands were granted by Father Gordon for us who chose to leave the village of Caughnawaga because of the ill effects of Rum or

Spir

[illegible] Council at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] General [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible]
Belt according to our Custom - [illegible] sent to France
[illegible] [illegible] ratification or exchange, from the French
King; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
When the King our great Father got this Country
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Sir William Johnson [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] our [illegible]
and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] settlement on
this Belt" and then presented a Belt which they
said [illegible] [illegible] the Great Kings and
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Pro=
=clamation of 1763 [illegible] by Sir William
[illegible] at the same time told us that we might
depend our property would be safe to the end
of the World, and recommended us to allow no
Traders [illegible] amongst us otherwise they
would rob us and spread like oil upon cloth"

In the last Council General Carleton
had told us, not to loose Courage
because we defended our own Lands and assisted
our great Father and Protector over the Water, and
You cannot but remember that as often as You
Cloathed us and gave these White Ornaments
Medals, Arm bands &c, that we mentioned our
wish that You should Shelter our Lands in like
Manner". Now Father do not be sorry that we
refuse any Consideration in Money or Goods for the
Land

Land in Justice because it is Land belonging to all our Cattle and a maintenance at our home is Dead" And here is your Bill back!

Colonel Campbell! Children! You seem not to understand my words and what I thought to have explained fully. You must observe that the tract of Land to which You pretend to have a Right is six times larger than any Seignory in this Country. You know the Indians of Caughnawaga Castle the first in the Country have but two leagues and I wonder greatly that you could be so extravagant and foolish in your demand! And I am satisfied and consider properly let Reason be Your Guide, I have always during ~~[illegible]~~ Your Known ~~friend [illegible]~~ Your friend, and I hope You will not put me to ask any thing from You that will make me blush. I will hear tomorrow morning what You may deliberate upon this Night —.

Chiefs, 2nd April 1784. Father, We thank You for your good advice last night, we begin to think about the matter and the Cloud which hung over us is almost quite dispersed, and we shall endeavour to listen to Your words and we only ask from Island Savotte to River Raisin and the rest is all we can spare to our Brothers

Colonel Campbell's Children! this

will

If Necessarily, Your Sentiments [illegible] on Your unreasonable demands and Wishes to Extend the [illegible] [illegible] seem to be Moderate and to be in the bounds of Reason. I again earnestly recommend to You, Seriously to Listen to my words, and to go on with Temper, Your Great Father below expects You [illegible] and does not doubt Your fidelity you may depend on it, but You are this moment in such extravagant demands going to expect not reason, go again and consider Coolly together and do not forget my commands what I have already Assured to you.—

The Indians returned back to the Black House and in the Evening the whole returned and Said—"

Chiefs— Father We are willing to do every thing in Our Power to Satisfy You, and to meet Our Great Fathers Wishes— Will You ask him then for us from Little Point Maligne"—

Colonel Campbell— Children! You are still wrong, the Town, or the habitations of Your Brothers is not built near to that place, and You say You first left below to Shew them"—

Chiefs— Father. We wish him too some distance from it, We shall go still down and say the difference or distance, from that Point to the Traverse, and in lieu of all that we give up now, we shall only ask of Our Great Father a Priest to reside amongst Us"—

Then—

[illegible] be [illegible] a considerable Settlement on [illegible] [illegible] And the [illegible] should [illegible] you [illegible] the [illegible]

Colonel Campbell [illegible]

[illegible] Title be vacant and [illegible] Samuel shall [illegible] around [illegible] you, because [illegible] Title Lands [illegible] the [illegible] Islands [illegible] your [illegible] in the mean time [illegible] distance asked by You but from the Place where You [illegible] the distance from thence to what You call Round Island (here it was explained to the Chiefs, the distance and Place not six miles, upon the Deputy Surveyor) and [illegible] Enable me to [illegible] Title to You shall" but I cannot promise You that same Tract but Conditionally; As to Your asking a Priest You are not able to maintain him, he would eat You up in one Year, and it will take a little time before You are able to give him a living, on that Subject I would Recommend to You Patience —

You'll carry back the Surveyor in one of Your Carrioles to go on with this Work excepting from the Place marked B to A— on the Sketch, drawn by the Engineer or Deputy Surveyor" — —

Chiefs

[illegible] thereof [illegible]

in Bell [illegible] as he at have that he have done something, and we know that you like it talk to us, on great talk about it to which our heart. The State they said the Surveyor to go on to the work [illegible] are finished.

It was now that they got a little time to clear their throats &c.

The above is truly as explained [illegible] Colonel Campbell, and Mr. Lorimier Interpreter.

(Signed) [illegible] MacDougalle

A true Copy
J. Johnson

Substance of the Proceedings with the Indians of St. Regis

2nd April 1784

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1st

29 March 1784

Minutes of the Proceedings with the Indians of the Village of St. Regis respecting their Claim to the Tract of Land from a Creek a little above the Long Sault to River Raisin. Six Leagues in depth. —

Present
Lieut. Colonel Campbell Superintendant
Lieut. McDougall, 84th Regim
Mr. Kotte, Deputy Surveyor
Messrs. Lorimier & La Motte Interpreters

Monday 29th March 1784, Lieut. Col. Campbell sent a Message to the Indians of St. Regis to meet him on Thursday following at Coteau du Lac which they did accordingly.

He first sent in for two of their principal Chiefs in whom he could most confide, to gain them over to his measures, representing to them that as he always remarked them to have the greatest share of sense amongst all his other children of St. Regis, and so often in use to open the ears of the thoughtless and Young men of that Village to hear whatever he said, and knowing it to be for their Interest, that he was upon this occasion very glad to see them least the inexperienced might be alarmed at any proposition from his Mouth. Here he explained to the two Chiefs their indisputable claim and demand &c. and desired they should communicate it to their different Tribes, before it was talked of in Public.

The two Chiefs returned to the Block-house where the rest were lodged,

Col. Campbell a considerable time afterwards when he judged his intentions had time to operate ordered the whole to assemble about twenty three in Number and after all the forms usual on such Occasions

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Council, on giving them a String of Wampum to open their ears and clear their understanding [illegible] a belt to cleanse & light their pipes, He addressed them nearly to the following purpose — Children, when I was lately at Quebec the Great Man your Father there received a Letter from Sir John Johnson, which mentioned your having Objected to the Loyalists settling upon the Lands in Question alledging, you had a prior right or claim to that tract, I must acquaint you that before he gave these Lands to your Brothers, the Loyalists, He first searched every place, and all the Records of the Province, to see if he could find any other person had a right to it but could find none.

Finding it as belonging to the King, your great Father and protector over the Water, he gave to your Brothers his other Children that were obliged to leave their own property to come to this Country under his protection from the Rebels, at the same time he did not forget you nor thought in the least to have encroached on any part of your land, —

Now I wish to be more acquainted with your pretensions to these Lands as it is a Matter of indulgence entirely proceeding from Your great Father below and his wish to serve you upon every occasion in his power, to send me at this time, to offer a reasonable Compensation in Money or Goods, for your having been in use to reap some Benefit from the Lands as being contiguous to your Village and Islands, as they are so given away now and I fear cannot be got back. I explained this business a little time ago to some of Your Chiefs now present, and I expect for your own Interest, that You will not ask any thing that will make me sad and that You will go about this business with that temper, Moderation, good conduct and fidelity which so often distinguished You"

Presenting to them a Belt of Wampum. —

In a short time afterwards the Chiefs answered"

" Father we have Cheerfully Obeyed your call and came here this day to meet you and to hear your words, we are very glad to see you because we expect you will settle this business with us, when we saw Number of people coming to settle upon our lands and spoke to Sir John Johnson a Cloud covered our Village and great Murmurs prevail amongst our Chiefs, Warriors Women and Children to see our lands given away [illegible] lost their Property and you cannot but know that we lost our Blood also in this War.

Father you ask us likewise what pretensions we we have to these lands, we shall tell you the whole history of it;

When General du Khain was in this Country these lands were projected by Father Gordon for us were chosed to leave the Village of Caughnawaga because of the ill effects of [illegible] place and to shun it, to which the General gave his consent, and to whom we sent our Belt Agreeable to our custom to be sent to France for a Ratification or exchange from the French King; Unfortunately for us soon after the General went to France and we never heard any more of it, After the King our Great Father got this Country and about Eighteen Years ago we went to Sir William Johnson, to whom we repeated our case and he confirmed us in settlement by this Belt." here they presented a Belt, which they said he gave them" and the Great Kings words sealed by himself" shewing his Majesties proclamation in 1763, counter Signed by Sir William Who at the same time told us that we might depend our property would be safe to the end of the World and recommended to us to allow no white people to settle amongst us, otherways they would loot us and spread like oil upon Cloth.

In the 1st Council General Carleton had with us he told us never to loose courage because we defended our own lands and assisted our Great Father and Brothers over the Water and you cannot but remember that as often as you cloathed us and gave the white ornaments, medals, arm Bands &c.a that we mentioned our wish should whiten our bees in like manner. Now Father do not be sorry that we refuse any consideration in Money or Goods for the Land in Question, because no other land will answer so well our Convenience in Maintaining us and to Give us Bread.—

And here is Your Belt back

Col.o Campbell.. "Children you seem not to understand my words and what I thought to have explained fully you must observe that the tract of land to which you seem to pretend a right, is six times larger than any Seigniory in the Country, You know your relations of Caughnawaga Castle the first in the Country has but two leagues, and I see no reason why you should be so extravagant and foolish in your demand, but retire to Night and consider properly let reason be your Guide, I have always done my best as you know to put you to rights when I saw you going wrong, and I hope you will not desire me to ask any thing for you that will make me blush, I will hear to Morrow Morning what you may deliberate upon this Night, —

Chiefs, 2d April 1784. Father we thank you for your good advice last Night we begin to think about the Matter, and the cloud which hung over us seems greatly dispersed, and we shall endeavour to listen to our Words, now we only ask from Island Gravell to River Raisin, and the rest is all we can spare to our Brothers"

Colⁿ Campbell. " Children this will never do I am exceedingly sorry for your unreasonable demand and Sticking so wide of the Mark, you must only ask moderately and within ye Bounds of Reason, I again earnestly recommend to you seriously to listen to my words, and to go on with temper, Your Great F below will assist you in distress and does not forget your fidelity, You may rely on his protection, but you are this moment by such extravagant demands going to forfeit his Esteem, go again and consider well together and do not forget my words, and what I have already observed to You,

The Indians retired to the Block-house back, and in the afternoon the whole returned and

Chiefs" — Father we will do every thing in our to satisfy you and meet our Great Fathers wishes. — Will You ask him then for us, from Little Point Maline. —

Colº - Campbell" Children you are still wrong the Town for the habitation of Your Brothers is to be Built near to that Place, and you say you first rest below to shew Rum"

Chiefs, " Father, we wish them to be some distance from it, we shall go still down and the difference in distance from that Point, to the Traverse, and in lieu of all that we give up now, we shall only ask of our Great Father, A Priest to reside amongst us, — Here they past a handsome Compliment on their Great Father and Sir John Johnson hoped they were not angry with them, should any of their Young men have disobliged Sir John Johnson when he was up. &c &c &c — Colº

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[illegible] Commissioner— Children I am glad that you are a little fairer Now, but you are still extravagant and Wrong in the Principal. I cannot ask all that Ground for You, Because I observe you have still Lands on the other side besides your Islands where you plant Your Corn, and in the mean time I hope you will not desire me to ask for You but from the place where you refused the distance lower than to where you all round Island since it was explained to the Chiefs before the (Deputy Surveyor the distance and place not Six Miles) and then you will enable me to open my mouth a little in Your behalf, but I cannot promise even that same Tract but Conditionally, As to Your asking a Priest you are not able to Maintain him he would Eat You up in one Year, and it will take a little time before you are able to give him a living, On that Subject I recommend to You, Patience.

You'll Carry back the Surveyor in one of Your Canoes to go on with this Work, excepting from the Tree Marked B. to A on the Sketch drawn by the Engineer or Dy Surveyor.

Chiefs. Father you will please to return us Your Belt, that we may show our people at home that we have done something, and we know that if you will but ask for us our Great Father below will Grant our Request We shall carry Back the Surveyor to go on with this Work as you have directed.

It was now that they got a little Rum to clear their Throats &c

The above is wrote as Explained to me by Lieut Colonel Campbell and Mr Laurimier Interp:

(Signed) Dun McDougall
Lt. 84th Regt.

Substance of the
Proceedings with the
Indians of St. Regis.

2d. April 1784

Proceedings

of the Commissioners appointed
to hold Treaties with the Indians
in the State of New York
by the Statute
Entitled,

"An Act to appoint his Excellency
"the Governor of this State or Person
"administring the Government thereof
"for the Time being and the Commis
"sioners therein designated to super
"intend Indian Affairs." —
Passed 6th. April 1784. —

ALBANY

Proceedings of the Commissioners
appointed by the Statute Entitled
"An Act to appoint his Excellency
"the Governor of this State or Person
"administering the Government thereof
"for the Time being and the Com-
"missioners therein designated to
"superintend Indian Affairs."
"Passed the sixth Day of April 1784."

The following Message was by Advice of the Commissioners sent by his Excellency Governor Clinton to the Mohawk Onondaga Cayuga and Seneca Nations of Indians viz:t

Sachems and Warriors of the Mohawks
Onondagas, Cayugas & Senecas

Attend!

I am appointed, as Governor of this State, to preside at a Board of Commissioners instituted for the Purpose of conferring with You, in order to accommodate the Differences which have unhappily arisen between You and Us, in the Course of the late War between Great Britain and America. This Appointment has been made expressly, lest You should object to the Impropriety of treating with any other than those You have always (until the late Troubles)

Troubles) considered as your immediate Brethren and who have always, until then, considered You as such, and who now wish to renew the ancient Covenant which subsisted between Us. In Order therefore to promote this salutary Buſineſs, which is the Object of this Meſsage, it appears to Us neceſsary that the Path of Communication between You and Us ſhould be immediately opened; and We do accordingly hereby remove all the Obstacles which lay in it and pluck up by the Roots all the Briars and Brambles with which it is overgrown, that We may freely paſs and repaſs to and from each other.

A String of six Rows.

Sachems & Warriors aforesaid.

We are persuaded, from the Communication made by General Schuyler, that You are heartily inclined to renew that ancient Friendship which heretofore subsisted between You & Us, and between your Forefathers and ours; That your Intentions are honest, generous and sincere. We are glad to hear it, because We wish that all Animosity should be buried in eternal Oblivion, and a future friendly Intercourse should prevail between Us, to the Benefit of Us both. To this End, We now invite You to meet Us in Council at the German Flatts, where You will also find the

Oneidas and Tuscaroras, and where We hope all Differences will be amicably adjusted, and that We may part from each other reconciled Brethren.

We do not fix on a Day for the Meeting, as your Distance and other Circumstances might render it impossible, or very inconvenient for You then to attend; but We wish You should be at the appointed Place as early in the next Month as You can. You will probably be able to determine on the precise Time whilst the Bearer is with You, and inform Us thereof by him. If not, it is our Desire that You will dispatch Runners to Us with a Message written in English previous to your setting out that no unnecessary Delays may intervene in a Business so important to both. Direct your Letters to Henry Glenn at Schenectady, who will immediately give me and the other Commissioners Notice when to attend.

A large White Belt.

Sachems and Warriors!

We have sent Mr Peter Ryckman with this Message because many of You are well acquainted with him and We trust You will afford him all the Assistance in your Power on his Return to Us. If Sickness or any Accident should prevent his Return, We desire You to send your Answer by those who accompany him or by Messengers of your own.

A String.

Geo Clinton.

City of New York }
April 11th 1784. }

Instructions for Mr Peter Ryckman.

Sir,

You will convey the Message herewith delivered You, to the Indians to whom it is directed, and take with You two or three Oneidas or Tuscaroras, and if any Accident should prevent You from proceeding, either in going or returning, You will forward the Dispatches by them who may accompany You.

Whilst at Niagara, ④ You will mix as much as possible with the Indians, and try to discover their Intentions as minutely as may be, and make Notes of every Information You may obtain. You will easily find who are the Leading Characters in each Nation; their Names You will note down, and try to learn their Temper with Respect to Us. If You find any who have Influence, and whose Inclinations are not friendly, You will also note their Names and the Nations they belong to.

⑤ To Captain Brant You will hint that our People in general are pleased with his Generosity to the Prisoners he took during the War, and that he may become a great Man if he conducts himself in such a Manner as will give the Commissioners Occasion to believe that he means to be a sincere Friend.

Peter, the Oneida You must also say

pay Attention to, and flatter him on Account of his Good Sense and Friendship to Us.

Cayenqueraghta, the Seneca Sachem, must have particular Attention paid him, and You must privately promise him that You will recommend him to the Notice of the Commissioners.

There are Reasons of State why the Object of your Journey should be kept a profound Secret; You are therefore on no Account to mention it to any Persons whomsoever. As You have traded to Niagara, You must give out that You are going there to collect some Debts from Persons who are leaving that Place. Should it be discovered what your Business is, before You reach Niagara, the State might sustain great Injury, as the disaffected in the Country (some of whom are Emissaries from the British) might, by their Machinations, prove Obstacles in the Way which it would be difficult to surmount: You will therefore take the utmost Precaution to prevent any Person whatever so much as suspecting that You are employed by the State.

I forgot to mention Teoquanda the Cayuga Chief as a Person of Influence, he must also have Attention paid to him, least a Neglect should offend him.

The Indians named herein are those who are represented to me as the principal Men; You will however be best able to judge who are the Persons of Influence among them and pay them that Attention which may be necessary to promote the Business of the Treaty.

I am Sir

City of New York } Your humble Servt.
April 12th. 1784. } Geo Clinton.

To the preceding Message the Governor received the following Answer; viz.

A Meeting held at Loyal Village ④ June 6th. 1784 by the Chiefs & Warriors of the 6 Nations &c viz. the Mohawks, Oneidas Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, Tuscaroras and Delawares &c, in Consequence of a Message delivered in Council by Peter Ryckman from the Governor & Commissioners for the State of New York dated the 12th of April 1784.

Attend Governor Clinton of New York!

You inform Us that You are appointed a Commissioner to confer with Us, in Order to accommodate the Differences that have unhappily arisen between Us in Course of the late War, and that this Appointment has been made expressly least We should object to the Impropriety of treating with any others, than those whom We had always considered as our immediate Brethren, and who now wish to renew the ancient Covenant which subsisted between Us.

We clearly and fully understand the Meaning of what You have said, which appears to

Us just and reasonable; you likewise clear'd the Path of Communication between You and Us, & as the Roads are now clear We can pass & repass without Interruption, We now do in the like Manner clear the Path, with a firm Resolution that it shall remain so, that We may equally pass and repass.

(A String)

Governor Clinton hearken!

You say that You have understood by General Schuyler that We are inclined to renew the ancient Friendship which subsisted between Us and that our Intentions are honest, generous and sincere; and that You were glad to hear it; that You wish all Animosity should be buried in eternal Oblivion.

We the six Nations assure You that We are glad to hear that You are disposed to Peace and as it clearly appears to Us by the Manner of your Speech, that a firm and perpetual Peace can be established, our Intentions have been and are such. We have communicated our Sentiments to General Schuyler on that Subject, that We meant to bury in Oblivion what is past and an honorable Peace established between Us, to be settled upon, for the Interest of both; and as We have before said, that We comprehend the purport of your Speech, We are convinced that this Friendship will be renewed and settled upon without Difficulty, as it seems it would be difficult to settle a Peace— with General Schuyler by the Manner of his Speeches. You invite Us to this End, to meet You in Council at the German Flatts, but You do not fix on a day for the Meeting, as our Distance might render it inconvenient for to attend. We look upon this as a very reasonable Remark of yours: We the Chiefs are sorry to inform You that at the time We received your Meſsage, We likewise received one from our Brethren the Southern Indians, informing Us that they were uneasy in Mind; that the Virginians had croſsed the Ohio River and were surveying their Lands, this We are apprehensive will be attended with bad Consequences, which has occasioned Us from immediately attending the proposed Meeting, and We intend to dispatch, with all speed, Runners to prevent if poſsible any such Accident as commonly follows; and on the Return of these Runners, We shall immediately dispatch one to You, to inform You of the time We shall meet You, as We are desirous that this salutary Busineſs should be settled, and We expect that a few of the Southern Indians will also attend this Meeting, as it will be conformable to our Agreements with them; as our Intentions in settling the Peace will be strong and as public as poſsible— We are desirous that You will communicate to Congreſs the Accounts which We have received from our Brethren, as it may be in their Power to prevent any such Accident; and let them know whatever passes between Us, and that We expect the Meeting will soon take Place, and at the same time wish to see proper Persons from the different States present, and We expect to make one Peace with the whole.

A large White Belt.

With this Belt We now remove your Council Fire to Fort Stanwix, as it will be more convenient to Us and don't think it can make material Difference with You; We will be glad to hear whether the Removal of the Council Fire meets with your Approbation.

A Belt.

Jos: Brant.

Sir, Albany 20th June 1784.

Last Evening Mr. Ryckman arrived from the Borders of Niagara; with the inclosed Answer to the Message sent into the six Nations Country by your Excellency in April last. Mr. Ryckman further tells Us, that Mr. Brant and the Chiefs of the different Nations then in Council told him they would set off within a Month of the date of his leaving them for Fort Schuyler, formerly Fort Stanwix. Mr. Ryckman left the Village on the 10th Inst. and has Reason to believe, of a large number of them coming to the treaty, You will find that they request moving the Treaty to Fort Schuyler, which will occasion the Expences of transporting the Stores ③ to Fort Schuyler, to as much more as to Fort Herkemer, ② which Place the Treaty was intended and the great Cry of Flour in this Quarter makes that Article very high. We have got 30 Barrels of salted Provisions and some other Articles Mr. Glen brought from New York, and bought some Flour equivalent to the salted Provision. We have likewise contracted with a Person on Condition Should We have occasion for them to have as many Oxen, as We may stand in Need of, We wish You to bring when your Excellency comes up, the five hundred Pounds. We will have the greatest Occasion for the Cash to complete the Treaty; the Articles above mentioned, with Boats and the hands are all ready at Schenectady, but shall not order them to move, till We hear of their being near at hand, of the Place where the Treaty is to be, and as the Matter is not properly fixed, where the Treaty is to be held, We would wish your Excellency would be pleased to direct Us, as We have Reasons to think they will make a Halt + in Oneida for a few Days, and send a Runner, so that We will have it in our Power to send them Word whether they must come as low as Fort Herkemer or to Fort Schuyler.

Its the general Opinion of the Inhabitants in Tryon County to have them to meet at Fort Schuyler, for the Ease of the Inhabitants.— ~~We agree, for our Parts, in Sentiment with them; as the Inhabitants~~ We agree, for our Parts, in Sentiment with them; as the Inhabitants in that Country are generally uneasy, and don't like to see Indians since the Affair of General Herkemers.— We must leave the Matter for your Excellency to judge when to set off.— Mr. Ryckman is of Opinion they will be in the Oneida Castle in the Course of three Weeks, and as the Distance from New York to Fort Schuyler is considerable, We would be happy in seeing your Excellency a few days before We set off for the Place where the Treaty is to be.

We are and remain

(Copy)

your Excellency's most obed.t and
humb.e Ser.ts

His Excellency George Clinton Esq.r &c.

Abraham Cuyler
Henry Glen.

Gentlemen! New York July 8th 1784.

I have received your Letter of the 28th of June with its Inclosures; I submit intirely to your better Judgment, aided by the Advice of
Mr.

those who are better acquainted with the Temper and Disposition of the Indians than I can be supposed to be, the determining the Place of Meeting for the proposed Treaty; and I must request, that after fixing the Place, You will make every neceſsary Arrangement, so as to prevent any Delay when the Indians arrive. I shall leave this Place for Albany in the Course of next Week, and will bring with me the Residue of the Money allowed, agreeably to your Request; in the mean time I have the honor to be

Gentlemen your most obed^t. Ser^t.

The Commiſsioners for Indian Affairs. } Geo. Clinton

Sir, New York August 10th 1784.

As Commiſsioners appointed by Congreſs to negociate Treaties with the Indians We wish to hear from your Excellency if Measures are taking for raising the armed Force recommended by Congreſs for the Protection of those Treaties.

Nothing now prevents the Commiſsioners from entering upon the Buſineſs but the Want of such Force to garrison the Frontier Posts or protect the Negociation.

We therefore beg the Favour of your Excellency to inform Us what Measures

are

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You have taken for raising the Quota of this State and when We may rely on its being ready for Service.

We have the honor to be with great Respect your Excellency's most obedt. humble Servts.

His Excellency
Governor Clinton }

Arthur Lee.
Richd. Butler.

Sir

Niagara 21st. July 1784.

In our last We promised to let You hear from Us as soon as our Meſsenger returned from our Western Confederates, who are now returned, and tell Us the Chiefs of the different Nations are on their Way in Order to accompany the six Nations to the intended Meeting at Fort Stanwix, where We expect to meet Deputies from the different States. We should be glad You would acquaint Congreſs of this, that the whole of the States may have time to send their Representatives to attend, as We wish to settle Matters finally at this Council with all concerned, at which time proper Places may be fixed on for any future Meetings. We expect the Chiefs from the Westward in a few days; on their Arrival, We shall immediately dispatch a Runner to let You know the exact time We shall be at the Place appointed. We have for some time expected to hear from You respecting what We mentioned pr. Mr. Ryckman, about the Fire Place being at Fort Stanwix.

a Belt.

I am Sir

Your most obedt. humle. Servt.

Henry Glen Esqr.

Jos: Brant.

In Behalf of the Confederates.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor & the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at the City of Albany 14th of August 1784.

Present:

His Excellency the Governor.

Colonel Cuyler. Henry Glen Esqr. —

Together with the following Gentlemen called upon to consult on the Business of the Commission, to wit, (24) x

Genl. Schuyler	Genl. Ten Broeck 20
Mr. Duane	Mr. J. J. Beekman
Mr. A: Yates	Mr. Outhout 12 x
Mr. R. W: Yates	and
Mr. Justice Yates	Mr. Visscher 3 x

The Governor laid before them his Message to the Indians of the 12th of April 1784 their Answer of the 6th of June 1784: a letter from J. Brant to Mr. Glen of the 21st of July 1784

1784, together with a Letter from the Hon.ble Richard Butler and Arthur Lee Commiſsioners of Indian Affairs for the United States, dated 10th Aug.t Instant, which being read, the following Letters and Instructions were drafted and agreed to, to wit

Gentlemen Albany Aug.t 13th 1784.

Your Letter of the 10th of this Month by Mr Monroe has just been handed to me.—

The Recommendation of Congreſs to the State, to raise from the Militia a certain Number of Troops, for the Purpose of garrisoning the Frontier Posts and protecting the Treaties to be held with the Indians did not reach me till some time in July. The Legislature of the State, who alone were competent to this Busineſs, had then dispersed, after a Seſsion which from the peculiar Circumstances of the State, had detained them from the Field until late in the Spring, and it was not only my Opinion, but that of every Member of the Legislature whom I had an Opportunity of consulting, that it would then be impracticable to convene them together, nor indeed did the Urgency of the Case seem to require that they should be put to so great an Inconvenience; for tho' they had aſsembled and complied with the Recommendation of Congreſs, it would have been already too late in the Season to have established the Garrisons for which the Troops were required; and besides I had received Information in a Manner which deserved Credit, and which Congreſs could not be apprized of at the time, that altho the Definitive Treaty was officially received in Canada; no Orders had come from Europe for evacuating the Posts, and have good Reason to believe that until such Orders are received no Measures will be taken for that Purpose. If therefore the Legislature were to raise a permanent Force, as recommended, they could not be applied to the purpose proposed and would only be a uſeleſs Addition to Expences, which We are already but too little able or disposed to discharge.

I conceive myself however authorized to draw from the Militia a Force sufficient, if any should be neceſsary, to protect the Commiſsioners of Congreſs in any Negociation with the Indians; and this will in a great Measure save the unneceſsary Expences attending a present permanent Force.

The Indians of the six Nations, whom I have requested to convene at Fort Schuyler, have advised me that they will be accompanied by Deputies from other Nations poſseſsing the Territory within the Jurisdiction of the United States; I shall have no Objection to your improving this Incident to the Advantage of the United

States, expecting however and positively stipulating that no Agreement be entered into with Indians, residing within the Jurisdiction of this State (and with whom only I mean to treat) prejudicial to its Rights.

These Engagements being made on your Part, You may rely on every Exertion in my Power and that of my Colegues to promote the Interest of the United States; which I flatter myself no State in the fœderal Union has at any time more cheerfully and efficiently supported than this. ⓐ

I have the Honor to be &c &c.

Geo: Clinton

The Honble. Richard Butler &
Arthur Lee Commissioners
of the United States for Indian Affairs.

Albany 14th. of August 1784.

Sir,

Mr. Glen has delivered your Letter to me of the 21st. Ult. It was my Intention to have advised You, by the Runners, who should have announced that the six Nations were on the Way down, that I had agreed to hold the Treaty at Fort Schuyler agreeable to your Wish.

In Expectation that the six Nations would have commenced their Journey long before now, I came to this City about a

Month ago and shall remain here until I hear that You are on the Way down (which I wish may be as soon as poſsible) and immediately thereupon I shall proceed to Fort Schuyler. You will observe, by my letter of the 12th of April last, that the Board of Commiſsioners in which I preside, were appointed on the Part of this State to adjust the subsisting Differences between the six Nations, their immediate Brethren, and the People of this State —

I have however agreeable to your Request, informed the Commiſsioners (appointed by Congreſs to represent this and the other United States in a general Treaty with all Indians poſseſsing the Territory not comprehended by any particular State) that Deputies from other Nations will accompany You to the proposed Treaty, whether those Gentlemen will attend or not it is not at present in my Power to determine, as I have not yet received any Answer from them.

It is however indispensible, neceſsary, in Order to prevent future Occasions of Discord and to cement the Friendship which formerly subsisted between Us, that the Treaty proposed on the Part of this State should in the first Instance be prosecuted without delay, even if the Commiſsioners from Congreſs should not attend.

I am your most obedt. Sert.

Geo. Clinton.

Captn. Jos: Brant.

Sir, Albany August 14th. 1784.

You are charged with a Letter to Joseph Brant, with which You will proceed as speedily as possibly to Niagara, unless You should meet with him at some intermediate Place.

You will inform such of the six Nations as You may meet with in your Way of its Contents, and if You should be in Council with any Nation, You will observe, as from your self, that the Reason why the Communication is immediately made to Brant, is because they seem to have appointed him to be the principal Negociator in their Behalf.

You will also hint, as from yourself, that it would be more proper for the six Nations to transact their Business as heretofore, when the Onondagas took the Lead in their public Affairs.

(24)

If You find that any Jealousy of or Envy to, Brant, prevails; You will try to discover who are most jealous or envious of him, and promote it as much as You prudently can. You will frequently in Conversation observe to the Indians, that those entrusted to negociate with them on the Part of this State are well disposed to accommodate Matters on Principles of mutual Benefit to them and Us, & that nothing ought to prevent them from improving this favorable Disposition without delay, and become again cordially connected with their ancient Brethren.

Albany August 14th. 1784.

Sir,

Mr. Ryckman who is charged with a Message to the Indians will deliver You this Letter, and will inform You that a Treaty is to be held with the six Nations at Fort Schuyler at an early Period. The exact time can not yet be ascertained, or You should have been informed of it before this. Whenever it takes Place We shall expect to see You and from the Zeal and Attachment, We are persuaded You have, for a State of which You have been so long a Citizen We doubt not You will lend every Aid in your Power towards rendering our Negociation effectual —

In Behalf of the Commissioners
I am Sir
Your very humble Servt.
Geo. Clinton

Mr. James Deane.

The following Gentlemen were then named and by his Excellency the Governor and the said Commissioners associated with them in the proposed Treaty — viz.t

General Schuyler
Mr. Duane
Mr. Abraham Yates
Judge Yates
John J. Beekman

Mr. P. W. Yates
Mr. Visscher
Mr. Chancellor Livingston
and
Mr. Ten Broeck.

The Meeting then adjourned.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners of Indian Affairs with them associated at the City of Albany the 25th day of August 1784

Present,

His Excellency the Governor.

Colonel Cuyler
General Schuyler
General Ten Broeck
Judge Yates

ⓐ
Abraham Yates
Peter W. Yates
John J. Beekman
Matthew Visscher.

His Excellency the Governor laid before them the following Letters,

Sir At our Fire Place near Niagara 11th of August 1784

We request You will without delay acquaint his Excellency Governor Clinton, that agreeable to his Desire signified to the six Nations in his Speech brought to this Place

on

in the Beginning of Summer by Peter Ryckman and according to our Promise in Answer to the Governors Message. That ten Principal Chiefs of the several six Nations will set out from hence this day on their Way to Kanenwarohare(25, where they mean to wait until they hear that some Persons properly authorized shall come to Fort Stanwix to speak with them on the Subject of settling a Peace between the Indian Nations and the United States.

To prevent any Misunderstanding or unnecessary Trouble, We request further Sir, that You will inform his Excellency the Governor that We the War Chiefs who are at present, are not impowered to conclude a final Peace with the United States, but are sent by the six Nations and the several Western Nations in Alliance with them, to settle some Points necessary to be arranged previous to a more general Meeting which is intended to be held, to establish an everlasting Peace and Friendship between all the Nations and the United States.

You will oblige Us also Sir, if You will, as soon as possible, inform Us of the time when We may expect to have the Governors Answer, or that We may look for the Arrival of the Persons that will be appointed to meet Us at Fort Stanwix.

We request when You send the above Message to his Excellency the Governor, that You will send likewise the Pipe of Peace which will be delivered to You by the Bearer of this to accompany it. I am Sir

In the Name of the Chiefs

To Henry Glen Esqr.

Your humd. Servt.

Jos. Brant.

Sir

Kanonwarohare August 20th. 1784.

Two Messengers have just arrived express from Captn. Brant; they bring a Letter from Mr. Glen which the six Nations desire may be forwarded immediately, & as expeditiously as possible. Brant will be here Tomorrow. Captn. Jacob Reed desires You to send him Two Gallons of Rum from the public Store for the Use of Brant and Party. Captn. Jacob further desires You to prevent the Traders from selling Rum to the Bearers of this, whereby they may be detained; only wish to give them some Provisions and a small Matter of Rum for their Refreshment.

I am Sir

Your most obedt. huml. Servt.

James Deane.

Mr. Colbreath.

The following Letter was drafted and agreed to and dispatched

Albany 23 August 1784.

Sir

In Consequence of the Letter from Captain Brant and Mr. Deane, which You forwarded, I have had a Meeting with the Commissioners and Associates in this City the Result of which is that We will leave this on Friday Afternoon for Schenectady and the next day proceed on our Way to Fort Schuyler. Should You conceive it necessary to send Captn. Brant Information of this, You will be pleased to forward a Message for the Purpose.

I expect that every thing will be prepared to leave Schenectady early on Saturday Morning; Four Waggons will be necessary to convey the Gentlemen and their Baggage from there and You will from thence be able to determine what additional Number will be wanted, and which You will be pleased to provide. I am Sir

Your most obedt. Servt.

enry Glen Esqr.

Geo Clinton.

xv29

General Gansevoort and Mr. Gerardus Lansing were named and associated with the

Commissioners. ——

General Schuyler, Judge Yates and Mr. Visscher were appointed a Committee to draft a Speech to the Indians on opening of the Treaty, agreeable to the Instructions to the Commissioners &c and report the same at the next Meeting.

The Commissioners then adjourned to meet Tomorrow Evening at 6 O'Clock at the same Place.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs and their Associates agreeable to Adjournment Albany 26th. of August 1784.

Present

His Excellency the Governor.

Colo. Cuyler
General Schuyler
Mr. A. Yates
General TenBroeck

Judge Yates
Matthew Visscher
Peter W. Yates and
John J. Beekman

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Commissioners a Letter from Arthur Lee and Richd. Butler Esqrs. Commissioners of the United States for Indian Affairs, dated the 19th. of August which was read and is as follows

Sir New York August 19th. 1784.

The Engagements of the Indians to convene at Fort Stanwix this Month, and the advanced Season of the Year will impose a Neceſsity upon Us of meeting them there in Order to conclude a Peace in the Name of the United States with such of those Nations as have been hostile. We have therefore sent a Meſsenger to announce this Intention to the Indians.

As the particular Nature of the Busineſs your Excellency is to transact with the six Nations on the Part of this State, is not known to Us, We cannot form a proper Judgment how far it is compatible with the Commiſsion We have the honor to bear from the United States in Congreſs aſsembled. But We submit it to your Excellencys Determination whether that Busineſs will not be more properly transacted at the same time with and in Subordination to the General Treaty.

Such Conduct on the Part of the State of Pennsylvania has been generally approved for its Wisdom and Confederal Policy. It is with a View that this State may have an Opportunity of shewing the same Respect for the Confederation and may avail itself of the same Advantages that We have the honor of communicating to your Excellency our Determination to meet the Indians of the six Nations at Fort Stanwix on the 20th. of September next.

We have the honor to be with the greatest Esteem your Excellency's most obedt. Servts.

His Excellency
the Governor of the
State of New York }
Arthur Lee
Richd. Butler

His Excellency also laid before the Board three letters written by him, addressed to Captain Brant, Henry Glen Esqr. and Mr. James Deane dated the 25th Inst. which were read and approved of and are as follows.

Sir — Albany August 25th. 1784.

Your Letter to Mr. Henry Glen of the 21st. Instant was received by me Yesterday, and agreeable to your Request, I now inform You that I shall set out from this Place with the Commissioners appointed in Behalf of this State to treat with the six Nations on the 27th Inst. and immediately proceed to Fort Schuyler, where I hope to meet You (if the Weather proves favorable) in five days thereafter at farthest.

The long time I have already been detained here on this Business makes me anxious to bring it to as speedy a Close as possible; It shall therefore not meet with the least possible Delay on my Part.

I

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We have the honor to be with the greatest Esteem your Excellency's
most obed.t Serv.ts
Arthur Lee
Rich.d Butler

His Excellency
the Governor of the
State of New York

His Excellency also laid before the Board three letters written by him, addressed to Captain Brant, Henry Glen Esq.r and Mr. James Deane dated the 25th Inst. which were read and approved of and are as follows,

Sir. Albany August 25th 1784.

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The long time I have already been detained here on this Business makes me anxious to bring it to as speedy a Close as possible; It shall therefore not meet with the least possible Delay on my Part.

I

I am Sir your obed.t Ser.t

To
Cap.tn Joseph Brant
at Canonowara.

Geo Clinton.

Sir,

Albany 25.th August 1784.

Some days ago I took the Liberty to write to You by M.r Ryckman, and to inform You that in Consequence of a Letter from Cap.tn Brant to Henry Glen Esq.r, signifying that Deputies from the six Nations were on their Way to the proposed Treaty at Fort Schuyler, and of your Letter to M.r Colbrath (&)x of the 20.th, mentioning that they would be the next day at Kanonowahara, I propose setting out from this for Fort Schuyler with the Commissioners on the Part of this State on Friday next, so that in five days thereafter (the Weather being favorable) I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing You at Fort Schuyler, the long time I have been detained here on this Business and the Necessity I am under to be speedily in New York to meet the Legislature ⓐx makes me anxious to bring it to as speedy a Close as possible and will prevent the least Delay on my Part for any Consideration whatever.

I am Sir

Your most obed.t Ser.t

To
M.r James Deane.

Geo Clinton.

Albany

Sir Albany 25th August 1784.

Owing to some Circumstances that have occurred since I wrote You this Morning, I have thought it adviseable to address the enclosed Letter to Captain Brant which when You have read You will please to seal and forward without the least delay, as also the enclosed Letter to Mr Deane.

I am Sir your most obedt. Sert.

Henry Glen Esqr. Geo: Clinton.

His Excellency also laid the following Letter before the Board, to wit,

Sir, Schenectady 26th of August 1784.

Yours of last Evening with Letters for Capt. Brant and Mr Dean came safe; I have early this Morning dispatched an Express to Fort Schuyler with two Letters. But since the Express had gone, I received by Chance Opportunity the enclosed Letter of Mr Rykman from Fort Schuyler. I have made the necessary Arrangements for our Departure from hence on Saturday Morning and the different Stations between this and Fort Herkeman will be aware of our coming. I have made out a Route for our Journey. I shall be happy if your Excellency will take a Bed at my house To morrow Night. I am with due Regard your Excellency's most obedt. humle. Sert.

To
His Excellency Governor Clinton Esqr. Henry Glen.
&c &c

Sert.

Sir   Fort Schuyler 23rd of August 1784.

I met the Runners of Captn. Brant on Friday the 20th Inst. at Canasarago. Immediately opened the Letter they had and found his Proceedings. I then pursued to see if I could not meet him at the Cayuga Ferry or the Seneca Country, to overset his Scheme. I then met him the next day in the Morning in Onondago. If I had met him at the Cayuga Ferry or the Seneca Country, I would have endeavoured to overset his Scheme and the whole of the six Nations would have come down; It seems that he is now something uneasy about it; I left him this Morning in Oneida with twenty four in Number and expect him here tomorrow; he did not chuse to stay there. — I would have come down myself this Morning, but thought best to stay here until Captn. Brant has received an Answer to his Letter from his Excellency or the Commissioners. —

Brant advised me to stay here until he has received his Answer — He says he has not received the Answer of the Speech he has sent down by me to his Excellency, and on that Account he thought it best to come down with some of the Chiefs of the six Nations to see how he should act — He also says that he thinks he would be able with the Chiefs he has with him; to make Peace with this State, but not with the United

States, as he has no Order to that Purpose. He also says that he has his Runners ready and all the six Nations are all waiting for the Word to come down. When I met Capt. Brant I persuaded very hard upon him to send some of his Runners for to fetch the whole of the six Nations down here. He then told me that foreign Nations could not come down farther than Onondago, as that had been always been their Fire Place and they are now at Niagara. I then told him that his Excellency could not come up that length, as he was not very hearty at present, and it seems that he has now given up the Point. He further informs me, that the Revd. Mr. Catlin has informed the Oneida Indians, that this State is intending to settle the Oneidas more to the Westward; he also advised them not to give over a Foot of their Ground to this State. He was there the 22nd. and 23d. of last June, the very time I came from Niagara. The same Oneida which came with me in Company from the Cayuga Ferry to Oneida, brought Capt. Brant the News; And that is my Opinion that detains the whole of the six Nations. I would be very glad if You could send me two or three Head of Cattle to this Place and some Salt. I shall desire Mr. Colbreath to give no Provisions to any of the Indians, but to Capt. Brant and his Party. No more at present but remain

Your humble Servt.
Peter Ryckman

To Henry Glen Esqr.
Schenectady.

The Commissioners gave it as their opinion that no Answer be given by his Excellency the Governor to the Letter of Arthur Lee and Richard Butler of the 19th Instant, as an Answer, such as their Letter merits, might occasion Altercation.

Sir Fort Schuyler 30th Augt 1784

I arrived at this Place this Evening and shall be happy to see You here tomorrow, as early as You can make it convenient. Captn Brant would also wish to see You here, as he is informed that You are entrusted by the Commissioners of the United States to make certain Communications to the hostile Indian Nations, which he expresses a Desire of concurring with me to expedite in giving them Dispatch.

I am Sir
Your most obedt Servt.
Mr James Deane. Geo. Clinton.

Sir! Kanawarohare August 30th 1784.

I have had the honor to receive two Letters from your Excellency on the Subject of the Indian Treaty, previous to the one of this Date. In Consequence of the first by Mr Ryckman I made a Journey to Fort Schuyler, on receiving Information of your Arrival at that Place, which proved premature. On the Receipt of the other dated 25th. Inst. I immediately set out from my Habitation on Wood Creek to wait on your Excellency, but was met on the Way by Despatches from the Commissioners of Congress, which prevent my having the honour, to attend You and lay me under the Necessity of setting out for the Country of the six Nations as expeditiously as possible. I have communicated Capt. Brants Letter to the Oneidas, In Answer to which they propose Capt. Brants sending a Runner, who may overtake me on the Road, and beg the Proposal may be communicated through the Channel of your Excellency. I am Sir

With Sentiments of profound Respect Your Excellency's
most obedt. humle. Servt.
James Deane.

His Excellency
George Clinton Esqr.

Fort Schuyler 31st. August 1784.

Hon: Sir,

I believe I have found out the Reverend Mr. Kirklands hurry and Business he is after. — It is to put the Oneida Indians on their Guard, not to exchange their Lands with You or any other Persons for any other Lands. This is all I have learned yet. — I think it my duty to inform You of it, as I will always do when

& I

I hear any thing worth while.

I am Sir &c

Jelles Fonda.

P. S. He has some time ago sent a Meſsage to Captain Brant something to the same Purport with this.

Fort Schuyler 31st. August 1784.

At a Meeting of the Commiſsioners and their Aſsociates,

Present

His Excellency the Governor.

Abraham Cuyler, Henry Glen &
Peter Schuyler, ⓐ Commiſsioners.

Robert Yates
Abraham TenBroeck
Abraham Yates Junr.
Peter W. Yates
Matthew Viſscher
J. J. Beekman
Genl. Gansevoort.

Aſsociates.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Commiſsioners the, Draught of his Letter to Mr. James Duane of 30 August and Mr. Duane's Answer, which were read.

Deputies from the following Nations only, to wit, the Mohawks, Onondagos

Cayugas, and Senecas attending, and this being contrary to the ancient and usual Custom, the Commiſsioners took into Consideration the Propriety and Manner of opening the Treaty and thereupon it was Resolved;

That an Introductory Speech be prepared, stating generally, the Object of the present Treaty, in Order to extract from the said Deputies the Powers wherewith they are invested, that the Commiſsioners may be enabled to determine whether such Powers are adequate to the present Buſineſs. —

September 1st. 1784.

The Commiſsioners met.

Present — as before.

Judge Yates, Judge TenBroeck, Abraham Yates Junr. P. W. Yates and M. Viſscher Esqrs. were appointed a Committee to prepare the Introductory Speech to the Deputies. —

It having been suggested to this Board, that some Uneaſineſs and Jealousy prevails among the Oneidas & Tuscaroras, occasioned by the private Artifice of designing Persons who have endeavoured to persuade them into a Belief, that this State have it in Contemplation to deprive them of their Lands, by Reason whereof this Board apprehend that some of the Sachems or Chiefs of the said Indians have as yet appeared to attend on the present Treaty.

Resolved,

That Mr. Henry Glen one of the Members of this Board, accompanied by Colonel Wemple and Major Frey, be requested immediately to repair to the Oneida Village and invite the said Indians to attend the intended Treaty Tomorrow, as early as possible; and at the same time to assure them of the friendly Disposition and Attachment of this State towards them, as We consider them as our Friends and Brethren, whose Exertions with Us in the late War have contributed to the Establishment of our Independence. (D–) x

The Remainder of the Day was spent in private Conferences with some of the Sachems and War Chiefs.

2d. September.

The Commissioners met as before.

The Committee appointed to prepare an Introductory Speech to the Deputies of the Mohawks Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas reported a draft thereof which being read and amended was agreed to.

Resolved,

That the same Committee

prepare a Speech to the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Speech to the Oneidas and Tuscarora Nations reported the same, which being read & amended was agreed to. — For Reasons which are obvious, it was agreed not to mention any thing to those Nations at present with Respect to the Purchase or Exchange of their Lands.

Sept: 3d

The Oneidas and Tuscaroras arrived in the Afternoon and the Remainder of the Day was spent in settling them and issuing Provisions to them.

Sept: 4th

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs & their Associates.

Present.

His Excellency the Governor.

Abraham Cuyler. Peter Schuyler. Henry Glen Esqrs	Commissioners.
Robert Yates Abm: Ten Broeck A: Yates Junr: P: W: Yates Jno: J: Beekman Matthew Visscher General Gansevoort.	Associates.

M

38.

Mr. Kirkland
Mr. Peter Ryckman Interpreter
Jacob Reed Do.

Major Fonda
Major Frey
Colo. Van Dyke
Mr. Jno. Livingston
Colo. Wemple
Colo. Munro
Mr. Morris

The Oneida & Tuscarora Nations among whom were the following Chiefs and Warriors, towit,

Sachems
Peter or Olatshete
Cornelius or Tsisterara
Peter or Atyatonneatha
William or Ataghhonghteayon,
William or Dyoghthaquecate
William or Atyeaghwatha
John or Kanatsingere

Chief Warriors
Lieut. Colo. Louis or Atyatoghharonguea.
Capt. George or Thonwaghweaharaguea.
Cornelius or Aghnyonken
Paulus or Anentshontye
Jacob Reed or Atsiaktatye
Jacob or Blacksmith
Anthony or Shonoughteigo

John

Chief Warriors
John or Teghhatkaghtons 39.
Lodowick or Asharago
William or Kayentarongwea.

being assembled, it was conceived proper by the Commissioners and the said Nations to send for the Deputies of the other four Nations that they might hear what the Commissioners had to say; and those Deputies attending and being seated, His Excellency the Governor delivered to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras the following Speech.

Brethren, Sachems, and Warriors of the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations,

We bid You welcome, and are very glad to see You; and by this String We wipe your Eyes, console your Breasts, and open your Ears, that You may hear what We have to say. A String.

Brethren! At the Conclusion of the late War with Great Britain, which terminated in a glorious Peace, the Legislature of the State thought it right to re-establish the ancient Harmony and Friendship, which had so long subsisted between this State and the six Nations residing within its Limits, & which had been interrupted by the Part which some of the six Nations had taken against Us; For this and other Purposes We are authorized by a Law of this State to treat with them.

Brethren: The Part You have taken We remember with Gratitude. We have no

Difference

Differences to adjust with You; We look on You as Brethren, who have often, in the Hour of Danger, given indubitable Proofs of your inviolable Attachment to Us and of your Determination of living and dying with Us.

Brethren! We have been informed that some designing Persons have endeavoured to persuade You that We mean to take away your Lands. This is not true. You must not believe it. We have no Claim on your Lands: its just Extent will ever remain secured to You; it is therefore an Object of our present Meeting to have the Metes and Bounds thereof precisely ascertained in all its Parts, in order to prevent any Intrusions thereupon.

Brethren! To convince You that We have been equally mindful of your Interest, as of our own and which We consider as inseparable, the Convention of this State in Order to preserve the Amity and Friendship which has always subsisted between Us and to prevent the Discontents and Animosities that might arise from Frauds in Contracts made for your Lands by Individuals, not sanctioned by the Legislature, in forming the Constitution of this Government, did ordain and declare, that no Purchases or Contracts for the Sale of Lands, made since the Year one thousand seven hundred and seventy five, and which thereafter might be made with or of the Indians within this State should be binding on the said Indians or deemed valid, unless made under the Authority of the Legislature of this State ㊿, and in all our subsequent Transactions We have been equally attentive to the Preservation of your Property.

Brethren! We wish a Continuance of that Friendship which has so long subsisted between Us; and if at any time You should be disposed to sell any of your Lands, in that Case, in Order to prevent the Frauds which may be practised towards You, We do expect and recommend to You earnestly, as Brothers and Guardians of your Rights, to observe the good old Rule, not to make any such Contracts or Sales, unless it be done under the Authority and with the Consent of the Government of this State; without which no Purchaser of your Land can, by our Constitution and Laws, be vested with a legal Title.

Brethren! When We invited the other four Nations to this Treaty, We intended You should be present. We knew as You lived in the Neighbourhood of this Place, that We could give You an Invitation after We were assured that the other Nations would be here; We have now called You and are happy as Brothers to see You at this Council Fire and to give You fresh Assurances of our Friendship and Affection; which We do by this—

Belt.

To which the said two Nations returned the following Answer;

Brother and Brothers of the State of New York

You observed that You expected Us at this Council Fire before the Arrival of the six Nations; but it would have been scandalous for Us to have been here before them, as We had not been invited.

Brothers! By this (taking up the String given them by the Commissioners) You have welcomed Us to this Council Fire and opened our Eyes that We might rejoice together; You have also removed the Sorrow that laid on Us by the Misfortune of the War; You have also opened our Speech that We might speak and our Ears that We may hear your Voice. You have cleansed our Habitations from all the Stains of Blood.

Brothers! the Governor and Commissioners of the State of New York! We thank You for your introductory Address; We take for granted our Fate and Fortune during the late Troubles have been the same. You have now come up what has been an untrodden Path to You for many Years, and this Path which You have seen, as You have come along, has been strewed with Blood. We therefore in our Turn console your hearts from all your Losses and Sorrow during these troublesome Times. We rejoice that You have opened the Path of Peace to this Country. We now open your Speech and give a String to your Lungs that You may freely speak.

A String.

Brothers! As We have now finished the smoking the Pipe of Introduction and You have spoken to Us. In this your Speech You have observed that there have been wicked Persons who have propagated Reports among Us, as tho' our Territory was in Danger, and as tho' if our Brother would wrest it from Us.

& Brothers!
These evil
Reports were
mere Report
f the Bird
herefore We
thought it
ot worth
ur while to
nform You
f it nor had
t affected Us
will it ever
eparate Us
for We do
ot fix on
ny thing
ntil We
ave spoken
nd conversed
gether

You have said that this was far from your Disposition - Was ever such thing known, that our Brother should say to another, get away from your Habitation. We have utterly rejected and disbelieved these Reports.

2 Brothers! These evil Reports We bury in Oblivion, let no such things create Jealousies in our Minds. In this let Us both be agreed.

Brothers! We have said, let this be forever blotted out, for should this be the Conduct of the Oneydas and Tuscaroras, or this their Situation, it would be strange indeed! and should this be our Situation We should become a Reproach to every Nation both far and near.

Brothers! We will now come to the Subject of our Meeting. This is, to revive the ancient Friendship, which subsisted between your Forefathers and ours, that We might continue to practise the same.

Brothers! You have come to revive this ancient Friendship and to give Us fresh Testimonies of your Regard to Us and our Property; and to inform Us that our Land is our own, and that You have heretofore taken Measures, that it should be secured to Us; that no Individual should come among Us to purchase our Lands, without your Presence; and if they purchased and paid Us Money, the Purchase would be void by the Resolution of the great Council of the State. You also desire Us to acquaint You, whenever We should be disposed to sell any of our Lands.

Brothers! We are glad to hear this, that no Individual may purchase from Us without your knowledge. This is agreeably to your frequent and repeated Declarations to Us. We would inform You, that a certain Man called Thaongweanagen alias Colonel John

Harper has made Proposals to purchase Lands from Us South of the Unadilla. We replied it was contrary to the Minds of our Brethren the State of New York, and he replied they know it and have sent me for the Purpose, & he gave Us Fifty Dollars as an earnest to the Agreement.

Brothers! We have now informed You of this: it now lies with You, whether he shall return again on this Buſineſs.

Brothers; This is all at present: We intended only to make a short Reply.

Brothers! You have repeatedly and frequently advised Us to love and regard our Property, and now afresh convinced Us of it. As You have loved your Property, You have also loved ours & now teach Us how to preserve it.

Brothers! We thank You for reviving this Resolution from the Beginning of the late War, that our Property is safe and We will follow your Advice. Do You continue the same.

Brothers! We again thank You that You have again advised Us to keep a good lookout that We do not lose our Property.—

Brothers! We again thank You: there is nothing in your Addreſs which is opposite or unfriendly to our Interest.

Brothers! We only renew our thanks for your Belt.

Brothers! here is another important Meſsage

will

with which You came to Us, that is to know our Boundaries.

Brother the Governor! You shall know what our Territory was previous to the late War.

Brother! You have a writing and We have another, that shews the Boundary Line run before the War on this Side. —

I have only one Side to describe. —

* The Line of Property a reversed and continued from the Canada Creek till it comes to a certain Mountain called Escocade or Ice Mountain, under which Mountain that Canada Creek opposite to old Fort Hendricks heads; k from thence running Westerly to an old Fort which stood on the Creek called Weteringhrea Guentere e and which empties into the River St. Lawrance about twelve Miles below Carletons or Buck's Island, b & which Fort the Oneidas took from their Enemies a long time ago; from thence running Southerly to a Rift upon the Onondaga River called Ogontenayea or Aquegontenayea (a Place remarkable for Eels) c about five Miles from where the River empties out of the Oneida Lake v and from thence runs to the Creek called Cagshunta, to that Part or Point of the said Creek which lays about six Miles East of Onondago and where the Water runs over a Ledge of Rocks and from thence runs up

the said Creek to a Lake out of which it emp-ties called Onagwolas* and from thence to the head of the Owego River which heads in a Swamp nearly at the same Place where the said Coghsunte River heads and from thence down the said Owego River to where it empties into the Susquehannah.

Brothers! By this Belt I have shewn You our West Boundary and You have Maps & Papers which will more precisely shew You.

Brothers! I will take this Opportunity to mention another Matter of great Importance that respects the Oriskee Tribe. General Washington assured them during the late Troubles, that they should possess and keep their Lands. It is a pleasant Place for Us to rest at and refresh ourselves when We are travelling and would wish You would confirm it.

* The Oneidas and Tuscaroras in their Speech gave the West Bounds only, but afterwards gave the Boundaries as now inserted.

Peter and other Oneyda & Tuscarora Chiefs informed his Excellency the Governor, that they had received a Letter from Arthur Lee and Richard Butler, which they were desirous he should see, but they had left it with their other Papers at Oneida; they therefore proffered to send a Runner for it, which they accordingly did, and it being produced to the Commissioners the following Copy was taken from it.

To the Sachems and Warriors &c of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, Allies of the United States and Tribes of the six Nations.

Brethren! The late Troubles which We have been mutually involved, being happily ended, Congreſs have thought proper to appoint Us Commiſsioners to transact all kind of public Busineſs between the United States and our Brethren the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, and to settle a general Peace with all the Indian Nations from the Ohio to the Great Lake.

We now inform You by the hand of our Meſsenger and Brother Samuel Kirkland and Mr James Deane the Interpreter and Servant of Congreſs, that We are making every Preparation and Exertion to expedite a Meeting with You.

We have lately heard that You are called to a Treaty by the Governor of New York. We know nothing of his Intention or Meaning, he not being authorized by Congreſs. Yet should You be set out to attend that Treaty, it would be hard to give the Fatigue of another Journey; and altho' it was our Intention, the Great Council Fire of Congreſs with the six Nations should be held at Niagara, We will, in Order to accommodate

You, meet You at Fort Stanwix on the twelth day of September next, where We expect You will certainly attend.

We are your Friends and Brothers.

(L.S.) Arthur Lee
(L.S.) Richd. Butler.

Indorsed;

Message to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras
August 18th. 1784. New York.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners
of Indian Affairs for the State of New York
Sepr. 5th. 1784.

Present

His Excellency the Governor.

Abraham Cuyler
Peter Schuyler Esqrs.,
Henry Glen
Commissioners

Robert Yates
Abraham Yates Junr.
Peter W: Yates
Abraham Ten Broeck
Jno: J: Beekman
Genl. Gansevoort
Matthew Visscher Esqrs.
} Associates.

Colonel Munro
Colonel Van Dyck
Major Fonda
Jnr. Morris
Mr. J. Ryckman Interpreter
Colonel Wemples
Jno: J. B. V. Eps
Mr. Jno. Livingston

The Deputies from the Mohawks, Onondagos Cayugas and Senecas towit;

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attending, the Oneidas and Tuscaroras being sent for, His Excellency the Governor delivered the following Speech to the ſaid Deputies.

Brethren Sachems and Warriors of the Mohawk

Onondagos

Cayugas and Senecas!

With this String We open your Eyes and your Ears, that You may hear and fully comprehend what We have to say.

Brothers! The Council Fire which was lighted both at Albany and Onondago by our Ancestors and those of the six Nations, and which burnt so bright and shone with so friendly a Light over our Common Country, has unhappily been almost extinguished by the late War with Great Britain.

We now gather together at this Place the remaining Brands, add fresh Fuel, and with the true Spirit of Reconciliation and returning Friendship, rekindle the Fire, in hopes that no future Events may ever arise to extinguish it; but that You and We and the Offspring of Us both, may enjoy its benign Influence, as long as the Sun shall shine or the Waters flow.

A String.

Brethren! The Paths which lead to and from our respective Habitations have already been opened and every Obstacle removed; We have therefore seen the Satisfaction of taking each other by the hand as Brethren residing within the same State, and congratulate You on Your

Arrival at this Meeting expreſsly called for the Purpose of settling those Differences and Animosities which have arisen between Us, by Reason of your Conduct during the late War; to establish Boundary Lines between You & Us, on such just and equitable Terms as will be satisfactory, and prevent all future Animosities; to promote Trade and Commerce and renew that former Friendship and Compact anciently made between the six Nations and our Dutch Ancestors and afterwards frequently renewed by the late Colony now State of New York. These things We conceive to be of great Importance, especially as We are now become a free and independent State and so acknowledged by Great Britain and other foreign Nations. It therefore behoves You and Us to have them speedily determined, as it is eſsentially neceſsary to advance and promote our mutual Interest and happineſs: In token whereof We present You with this,

Belt.

Brethren! We wish that a Treaty to bring about such salutary and important Purposes may be conducted with a true Spirit of Friendship and Reconciliation.—

Brethren! We hope that You will not suffer Yourselves to be led astray or deceived, by Persons, who under specious Pretexts or from Motives of private Interest, will pretend to be your Advocates and Friends, offer You their Counsel and Advice, but at the same time will throw in the Way all the Difficulties and Embarraſsments in their power.

Brethren! We recommend You to embrace the present Opportunity, lest, if this be lost or neglected, some unavoidable Accident or unforeseen Event may render a future one precarious and poſsibly leſs favorable to your Interest.

Brethren! The Right and Power of managing all Affairs with the Indians, not Members of any of the States, is vested in Congreſs, who have, as We are informed, appointed Commiſsioners for the Purpose. We are appointed by a Law of the Legislature of this State, to superintend Indian Affairs within the same, by Virtue of which We are authorized and required to enter into Compacts & Agreements with any Indians residing within this State. It is in Consequence of this Law and these Powers that We appear now to treat with You our Brethren, with whom, when our present Differences are adjusted, We are inclined to live as heretofore, on Terms of the most sincere Friendship; in Testimony whereof We gave You this

Belt.

Brethren! By your Letter of the 11th Day of August last which We received from Captain Brandt, You inform Us that You are ſent by the six Nations in Alliance with You to settle some Points neceſsary to be arranged previous to a more general Meeting; what those Points are, We shall be glad to know. We on our Part attend agreeable to the ancient Custom in which Treaties have been conducted between You and Us and our Ancestors; but your being thus sent, is out of the ancient Mode. We would therefore desire to know the Reason of this new Way of proceeding on a Busineſs of this Nature, and whether You have sufficient Powers delegated to You on this Occasion, so that when We see that You have competent Powers for these Purposes, We may proceed farther upon the Busineſs.

To which the Deputies made Answer.

Brothers! Now You have finished this Day at this Council which You have called here & and We have heard what You had to say and fully comprehend it: We would now observe to You that it is the Custom of the six Nations to consult and consider before We answer and wish You to keep an open Ear, in Expectation to hear what We have to say.

Sept.r 6th. 1784.

Was a rainy Day and the Deputies not ready to deliver their Answer until Tomorrow.

September 7th. 1784.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs; The Governor being indisposed

Present.

Abraham Cuyler Peter Schuyler Henry Glen Esqrs.	Commissioners
Abraham Yates Robert Yates Abraham Ten Broeck P. W. Yates Mat: Visscher Leond. Gansevoort John Livingston Esqrs.	Associates

Col. Munro Col. Wemple Col. Van Dyck Mr. Morris	Mr. Vaughan Mr. Van Eps Mr. Kirkland Mr. Peter Ryckman Interpreter

The Commissioners informed the four Nations by their Deputies, to wit,

Mohawks

Mohawks	David Hill Karongyoto Capt. Jos. Brant. Thayendanegea
Onondagos	Kashighloghare Hatheghserarun.
Cayugas	Oghsnoquenton Karonghyagelon
Senecas	Kayentwaghigeogh or Captn. Abeel Kaweawentinen
Oghwagas or Oneidas.	Atoghseronge Kanawadon
Tuscarora.	Tayhahipen,

War Chiefs and several other Indians accompanying them; that the Sachems and Warriors of the Oneidas & Tuscaroras were to be present and were sent for & they soon appearing and being seated Captain Abeel a Seneca Chief spoke as follows:

Brothers! You will acquaint Us when You are ready.

And being answered by the Commissioners that they were ready, Captn. Brant delivered the following Answer to the Commissioners Introductory Speech.

Brothers attend! We are now assembled at at this Place where You have called a Council on this day. — We are equally with You unhappy at the Absence of the Governor, but what shall We say? We are not the Preservers of our Lives, and therefore mutually sympathize with You on Account of his Illneſs and we trust You poſseſs your Minds in Peace and attribute our not speaking Yesterday to the Badneſs of the Weather.

Now Brothers attend!

When You spoke to Us and addreſsed Us as four Nations, Mohawks, Onondagoes, Cayugas and Senecas, You said with this String We open your Eyes and your Ears that We might comprehend what You had to say. We thank You Brothers for this Introductory Addreſs: We comply with your Request. We therefore now in our Turn brighten up your Eyes and Understanding, that You may hear what We have to say.

Brothers! In your Speech to Us, You observed that the Council Fire which was long ago kindled by our Ancestors at Albany and Onondago and which burnt bright and shone with a friendly Light over this Country, has been almost extinguished by the late War with the King of Great Britain.

Brothers! It is true; it is fresh in our Minds. We remember the happy days that our Ancestors enjoyed.

Again: You said You gathered

the remaining Brands and re kindled this Fire, that the ancient Friendship might revive and that our Offspring mutually might enjoy its Interest and benign Influence.

Brothers! We thank You for this: it exactly meets our Disposition and Feelings of our Minds; We therefore by this String confirm your Declarations. This Brethren We receive and confirm, because our Voice will be heard to all our Brethren to the Westward; for which Reason We trust it will remain sure. Again You said that as the Path which led to our respective Habitations was again opened: We had the Satisfaction of taking each other by the Hand as Brothers.

Brothers! This is true what You have said. We are surrounded with Evidences of your friendly Dispositions, for We are happy while We are here at this Council Fire and the Design of Meeting at this Council Fire was for the Purpose of settling these Differences and Animosities, which had arisen between Us during the late War occasioned by our Conduct as well as yours. You further said that your Purpose was to settle Boundary Lines between You and Us, on such equitable Terms as will give mutual Satisfaction.

This Brothers meets with our entire Approbation, for surely We have a Love for our Country or Territory.

It is our Wish that this Matter may be now attended to and accomplished to our mutual Satisfaction. This seems necessary to be fixed, for then a free and generous Trade will be carried through our Country. Then will revive the ancient Friendship which subsisted between the five Nations and your Dutch Ancestors.

Again. You observed that this was a Matter of great Importance especially as You had become a free and independent State, and so acknowledged by Great Britain and other foreign States. This, Brothers, We know and are fully sensible that You are a free and an Independent State and therefore wish to reestablish Friendship and Peace between Us and as a Token that We receive your Speech and confirm it, We give You this Belt,

Belt of seven Rows with 3 Blocks

And as a farther Testimony of our Approbation of your rekindling this Council Fire, We present You with this Pipe of Peace, there to remain as a Token of Peace from Us, agreeable to the Custom of our Ancestors.

Brothers! You again spoke and expreſsed your Wish, that this Treaty which was to bring about important Matters might be conducted with a Spirit of sincere Friendship.

This is our disposition. We mean in every Respect to conduct accordingly.

You again spoke and warned Us not to be led astray by evil minded Persons

Brothers! We thank You for this Advice, & Warning. We take it for granted that You know We are exposed to Deception, otherwise You would not have warned Us. This We shall observe. We will be on our Guard and We suppose it is neceſsary, as our Lands will be an Object of Jealousy.

Brothers! You again spoke and recommended to Us to embrace the present Opportunity, lest it should be lost by Negligence. This We embrace: For this very Purpose came We to this Place; because We are left to treat for ourselves and have a free and independent power for that Purpose.

Brothers! You again spoke and made Us acquainted that the power of managing Indian Affairs at large belonged to Congreſs, and that they had appointed Commiſsioners for this Purpose, and that You were appointed by this particular State, to manage Indian Affairs with Indians residing within the Bounds thereof; in Consequence of which You appear here at this Place.

Here lies some Difficulty in our Minds, that there should be two separate Bodies to manage these Affairs, for this does not agree with our ancient Customs. This was the Reason why We made such a Reply when your Messenger Mr. Ryckman came to our Country; it was the Voice of our Chiefs and their Confederates, that We should first meet Commissioners of the whole thirteen States and after that if any Matters should remain between Us and any particular State, that We should then attend to them: At the same Time We are fully determined notwithstanding all this to make a final Settlement with You & do all We can for that Purpose, and to confirm the Truth of our Words We give You this Belt.

Belt of seven Rows & ten Blocks.

Brothers! You again spoke mentioning the Letter You received of the 11th August last from Capt. Brandt by which We informed You that We were sent by the six Nations & their Confederates, to settle some Points necessary to be arranged previous to a more general Meeting; what those Points were You desired Us to let

You know, for You on your Part now attended according to ancient Custom between your Ancestors and ours, and that the Mode or Manner of our coming was not according to ancient Custom and desired Us also to let You know the Reasons of this; and also desired Us to inform You whether We had sufficient Powers for the Purposes mentioned in your Speech.

We now reply, and fully explain to You the Manner and Mode of our coming down.

In the first Place We aſsign this Reason. When your Meſsenger Mr. Ryckman came to Us with your Meſsage, in our Answer We told him We should first send to our Confederates, and as soon as We had a Return from them, You should hear from Us; and We also then requested to hear from You in Answer to what We sent by him. A second Reason We aſsign is this. You appointed the German Flatts for the Place of the Council Fire; in our Reply We requested that it might be at Fort Stanwix and that the Commiſsioners from Congreſs might be acquainted therewith, and be there, that We might have the Voice of the whole. When your Meſsenger left Us, We enjoined it on him to let Us have an Answer on these two points.

On our Part, as soon as We

had an Answer from our Confederates, We informed You and We were then in constant Expectation to hear from You. At this Time came Chiefs from four Nations of our Confederates & they then told Us that Sachems of two other Nations were yet behind and were daily expected. Upon our informing them of the Place of Meeting which was this very Place they refused * coming down so far, and said that Niagara was the most central Place for Meeting, and that it was their ancient Place of Meeting; and because they would not agree to come down; is the Reason why We did not send a Runner as We had promised, and as We had not received an Account from You of the Alteration in the Place of Meeting.

We are sent by our Nations in the Manner We now appear to treat with You & have Power for that Purpose; had your last Message come in Time the whole of our Nations would have been here, and in Testimony that We have Power to treat with You We present You with this String.

Four Strings.

And wish You would let Us know what You have farther to say to Us.

8th and 9th September spent preparing Speeches and in private Conferences.

64.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the State of New York. Fort Schuyler 10th September 1784.

Present.

His Excellency the Governor.

Abraham Cuyler
Henry Glen
Peter Schuyler Esqrs. } Commissioners

Robert Yates
Abraham Tenbroeck
Abraham Yates
J. J. Beekman
Matthew Visscher } Associates.

Col. Wemple
Mr. Morris
Mr. Vaughan } { Mr. Ryckman and Mr. Jacob Reed Interpreters.

And the Chiefs of the Oneida & Tuscarora Nations.

The Deputies from the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas attending and being asked whether they were ready to receive our Reply and answering they were; His Excellency the Governor delivered the following Speech to them;

Brothers! We have heard your Answer to our Introductory Speech and considered it attentively. We are happy to find that You correspond in Sentiment with Us with Respect to the important Matters We proposed to You and that + You discover a Disposition to adopt just and equitable Measures for reviving and confirming that Friendship which formerly subsisted between Us, & which was unhappily interrupted by the War with Great Britain; and We receive with Satisfaction the Assurances You have given to Us that You have Powers to treat with Us upon these different Matters necessary to bring about this salutary Object.

Brethren! The Pipe of Peace which, agreeable to the Custom of your Ancestors You have presented to Us as a Testimony of your Approbation of rekindling the Council Fire, shall be carefully preserved as a solemn Token of the Sincerity of your Profession.

In all our Communications with You to effect the proposed Meeting, We have endeavoured to be as explicit as possible, so that You might fully comprehend & understand the Grounds and Principles upon which We meant to treat with You, and the Powers under which We acted; and to remove all Difficulty and Doubts from your Minds on this Subject, and as a

further

farther Evidence of that Candour and Sincerity which We have recommended to be observed and which We expect on your Part, We have laid before You the Confederation of the United States, the Constitution of this State and the particular Law under which We act, that You might see and judge for Yourselves before We proceeded farther on the Business.

Brothers! We trust that the Difficulties You expressed about different Commissioners are now fully removed from your Minds, and that You are clearly convinced that We have a proper Right to negociate and settle all the Matters between Us which We proposed to You. We shall therefore now proceed.

Brothers! To remove the Animosities which have arisen during the late War, We told You it would be necessary to establish Boundary Lines between You and Us on just and equitable Terms, in doing of which, considering our Losses, the Debts We have incurred and our former Friendship, it is reasonable that You make to Us such a Cession of your Lands as will aid Us in repairing and discharging the same.

Brothers! We will not in the first Instance mention any Quantity or describe any particular Tract: This can be better done there after when We are more fully informed of your Sentiments on this Subject. We would only observe that in the Settlement of this Business We wish to be governed by Equity and mutual Conveniency, and that We expect Part of the Lands to be ceded will be in the Vicinity of Niagara and Oswego to accommodate our ancient Settlements at these Places.

Brothers! This is the principal Point to be adjusted. If this can be satisfactorily accomplished, and our People in Captivity with You liberated and returned to their Friends; all Differences and Animosities will subside and We propose in this Case, on our Part, to extend to You all those Assurances for securing You in the Possession of your Lands and to prevent Frauds and Impositions which might be committed against You, which You will find provided for by our Constitution and Laws and which You have lately heard Us give to our Brethren the Oneidas and Tuscaroras.

Brothers! We think it proper also to mention to You that if a Settlement should be happily effected, and these Assurances be on our Part given to You, that You will on your Part faithfully continue to observe the ancient Rule established between Us while We were a Colony and renewed by the Constitution of this State, not to dispose of any of your Lands lying within its Limits without the Consent and Approbation of our Government; and that You will expressly stipulate, that if at any time hereafter You should dispose of any of your Lands within our Bounds, that in that Case You will always give Us the Right of Preemption, so that the State by any Act of yours may not be injured in its Rights.

Captain Abel then informed the Commissioners that according to Custom they would take Time to consider and give an Answer and they having retired, His Excellency delivered the following Speech to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras.

Brothers! We are very well satisfied with your Answer to our Speech and for which We now return You our Thanks.

You have informed Us that Thaoughweanjawegen alias John Harper has made Proposals to purchase Lands of You South of the Unadilla and that he told You that the Council of this State knew it and had sent him for the Purpose upon which You desire our Opinion. Brothers! What this Man has told You, is not true. He has done this without our Knowledge and We have not sent him.

Brothers! That You may no more be deceived or imposed upon in such Cases, We advise You not to make any Bargain or Agreement for the Sale of any of your Lands, unless those who want to buy do previously obtain and shew You a Licence from the Government of this State properly authenticated.

Brothers! You also, agreeable to our Request, have mentioned to Us the Boundaries of your Lands and We have accordingly set them down as You described them. You observed that You had one Paper and We another, that would give the Boundary on one Side. This is true, but the Bounds on the other Side are not so well known to Us.

Brothers! We have also observed what You have said relative to the Lands on the Mohawk River now occupied by the Oriskee Indians. These Lands are not comprehended within the Boundaries You mentioned to Us and it is therefore probable they have been heretofore sold to the Persons who obtained a Patent for them under the late Colony of New York. Should this appear to be the Case and that those Persons have honestly paid for them. We have too good an Opinion of your Honesty and Understanding to believe You would wish Us to take away their Property and thereby commit an Act of Injustice; for if We was to do so, how could You ever after trust Us yourselves.

Brothers! We have now fully opened our Minds to each other, and We are happy that your Sentiments and ours do so well agree.

Brothers! We now conclude with the fullest Confidence that our Chain of Friendship will not contract any Rust, but that it will always remain so bright throughout every Part of the State, that our Posterity may see their Faces in it, and that it will be their Object, as it has been ours, to promote each others Happineſs and as a Pledge thereof We now give You this Belt.

The Deputies of the Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas and Senecas being returned and seated, Capt. Abeel spoke and said:

Brothers! Agreeable to what We before said, We have taken Time to consider your Speech and are now ready to make an Answer if

You are ready to receive it; and being told by the Governor that We were;

Captn. Brant arose & spoke as follows,

Brothers! We have received your Speech and considered it well and are happy to find that You and We so well agree in Sentiment and that there is the greatest Prospect of settling the Differences which have arisen between Us.

Brothers! We are exceedingly happy and return You thanks for the Candour and Explicitneſs with which You have conducted the Buſineſs on your Part. We have considered the Confederation of the United States, the Constitution of this State and the Laws under which You act and are fully sensible of your Right, as Commiſsioners of this State, in treating with Us the six Nations who live and reside within its Limits.

Brothers! You have already experienced Candour and Explicitneſs on our Part and You may be aſsured of a Continuation of that Candour and Explicitneſs which ought always to be observed in a Buſineſs of this Nature and especially among Brethren who live and reside in one State.

Brothers! You have told Us that in Order to remove the Animosities which have arisen between Us during the late War, that Boundary Lines between Us should be settled and that in Consideration of your Loſses, the Debts You had incurred, and the former Friendship which subsisted between You & Us: it was reasonable that We should make to You such a Ceſsion of our Lands, as would aid You in repairing and discharging the same.

Brothers! We have already told You that We were ready to settle with You Boundary Lines upon just and equitable Terms and We now repeat it, and as You have now called upon Us to know what Territory We would cede, and as You expreſs a Wish to have Part of the Lands to be ceded to lie in the Vicinity of Niagara & Oswego to accommodate your ancient Settlements at these Places.

Brothers! We now reply that the Request You make for Lands for the above Purposes in general and the Manner in which You have made it, We as Deputies think reasonable, but We must observe to You that We are sent in Order to make Peace and that We are not authorized to stipulate any particular Ceſsions of Lands. We shall however recommend it to our respective Nations, and We believe they will meet your Wishes to specify to You the Lands they are willing to grant to You. This Busineſs We expect they will treat with You about, as soon as the Treaty with the Commiſsioners of Congreſs is ended.

Brothers! You have particularly expreſsed your Wish to have Lands at Niagara and Oswego, for the Accommodation of your ancient Settlement at those Places. We have formerly ceded some Lands to the Government of the late Colony of New York for the Use of the King. This already belongs to You by the Treaty with Great Britain, and as to Oswego We think it reasonable that You should have Lands there; but as to the Quantity We cannot determine for the Reasons before mentioned. We will also in Respect to this earnestly recommend it to our respective Nations and We have every Reason to suppose it will be granted.

Brothers! You told Us that this was the principal Point to be settled between Us, and if this could be adjusted and your People in Captivity with Us liberated, all Differences and Animosities would subside. We have already determined that when a General Peace takes Place, all the Prisoners should be liberated and returned, and We have sent Yesterday to our Nations for that Purpose.

Brothers! You farther informed Us that if a Settlement should take Place and the Assurances on your Part given of securing Us in all our Lands, agreeably to the old Custom, that We would faithfully continue to observe the ancient Rule established between You and Us while We were a Colony and renewed by your Constitution not to dispose of any of our Lands being within your State, without your Consent and Approbation. This We agree to and assure You that We shall abide by the ancient Rule & Custom. These were good and We as a People derived our mutual Advantage from it.

In Testimony of the Truth of all what We have said, We deliver You this Belt.

A Belt of seven Rows & five Blocks.

His Excellency the Governor, in Behalf of the Commissioners, then informed the Indians that they intended to set out early in the Morning on their Return home and therefore now adjourned the Council Fire. He also mentioned to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras, that as their Lands must have grown over with Bushes during the War and consequently their Subsistence be more difficult to be got; the Commissioners would give them the Provisions which remained on Hand, as the most acceptable Present they could make them in their Situation.

And to the Deputies of the other four Nations he mentioned the Intention of the Commissioners to leave them a Sufficiency of Provisions for their Use until the Time fixed for their Meeting with the Commissioners of the United States.

In the Course of this Day several Caghnawaga Chiefs and Warriors and about forty of that Tribe arrived, having previously sent the Governor a String as an Evidence of their Friendship and to announce their Approach. These being present at the Delivery of the last two Speeches, the Commissioners through the Governor, informed them that their Business at this Council Fire was confined to the six Nations; but that they were happy to see them there: that they considered them now as Friends; that such of them as lived in the Village of St. Regis or other Parts within the Limits of this State might return to their Habitations without the least Apprehension of Injury, as the State had made ample Provision against any Frauds or Impositions being committed against Indians residing within its Limits: that it would at the same Time be expected that they would strictly observe the good old Rule which is as revived by the Constitution of the State not to dispose or part with any of their Lands without the Consent and Approbation of this Government.

The Deputies of the four Nations by Captain Abeel then made a Speech, returning the Commissioners their thanks for the Candour, Civility and Attention with which they had been treated, as did also the Caghnawagas, the latter promising at the same Time to observe what had been injoined on them by the Commissioners.

It having been agreed by the

Commiſsioners, as neceſsary for the Interest of the State, to leave Major P: Schuyler one of their Board and Mr. P: Ryckman as their Interpreter, at the Place to attend the Treaty proposed to be held by the Commiſsioners of Congreſs, the following Instructions for the Government of their Conduct were prepared and agreed to.

Instructions for Major Peter Schuyler.

You are to remain at this Place with Mr. Peter Ryckman who is to attend You to observe the Conduct of the Commiſsioners of Congreſs in their proposed Treaty and take Notes of their daily Proceedings. You will attend their public Speeches & Answers and find out the Objects they have in View; and where You find they have in View any thing that may eventually prove detrimental to the State, You are to use your best Endeavours to counteract and frustrate it.

By the Returns made by Mr. Glen one of the Commiſsioners, it appears that there remained on hand this Morning,

40	bbls.	Flour
5	Do.	Beef
3	Do.	Pork
5	Do.	Tobacco

2 Bbls Salt
4 Head Cattle
6 Bbls Rum
76 Kegs Do
10 Bbls Corn
1/2 Bbl Biscuit
1 1/2 Box Pipes.

Of these Articles, You will deliver to the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, as a present. 8 Barrels Corn, 3 Bbls Beef, 2 Bbls Pork, 3 Bbls Tobacco, 1 Bbl Salt, 2 Head of Cattle, 30 Kegs Rum, 28 Bbls Flour for which You will take their Receipt. You will then have on Hand 2 Bbls Beef, 1 Bbl Pork, 2 Bbls Tobacco, 1 Bbl Salt 1 Head Cattle, 6 Bbls Rum 40 Kegs Rum, 2 Bbls Corn 1/2 Bbl Biscuits 1/2 Box Pipes and 12 Bbls Flour. You will out of this, supply the Deputies from the four Nations until the 20th Instant the Day fixed by the Continental Commissioners for their Treaty and what ever You can spare from that use and your own, especially the Rum, of which You have a large Quantity, convert into Cash for the Benefit of the State — You will inform the Oneidas and Tuscaroras that You have given them all the Provision on hand and that can be possibly spared.

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At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs for the State of New York: Sepr. 14: 1784.

Present,

His Excellency the Governor.

Genl. Schuyler
Genl. Gansevoort,
Genl. Ten Broeck
Judge Yates
Abraham Yates Esqr.
Mr. Mayor.
P: W: Yates Esqr.
Matthew Visscher Esqr.
} Associates:

His Excellency the Governor as President of the Board laid before them the Speeches that had been delivered to the Indian Tribes and their Answers at the late Treaty and also informed the Board of the Steps that had been taken and which were to be pursued on the Part of the State at the intended Treaty by the Commissioners of the United States with the six Nations, which were approved.

The Board taking into Consideration that Exigencies might arise which would render further Measures proper to be taken to promote the Interest of the State, and that

Meeting

Meetings for this Purpose of the Commissioners and their Associates, in the Absence of the Governor who is obliged to attend to the other Concerns of the State at New York, may be absolutely necessary; Therefore

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Resolved that Abraham Cuyler Esqr. one of the Commissioners be requested to call Meetings of the Commissioners and their Associates whenever the same shall appear to be proper and necessary and that they make Arrangements for carrying into Execution what shall be agreed upon in any such Meetings as promotive of the Rights and Interest of the State, and that they advise the Governor thereof that he may attend in Case the same be necessary.

Resolved; That a Committee be appointed to examine and liquidate the Accounts of the Commissioners attending the late Treaty and that they report the State thereof to his Excellency the Governor.

Resolved; That the Committee for the Purpose mentioned in the preceding Resolution consist of Genl. Gansevoort, P. W. Yates Esqr. and his Worship the Mayor.

Resolved; That Judge Yates be

requested to get as many Silver Breast Plates or Gorgets with the Arms of the State thereon engraved as the Commissioners and their Associates, in the Absence of the Governor, shall deem proper and to be presented to such of the Sachems and Warriors as shall be named by the Commissioners: The Expence not to exceed Fifty Pounds.—

Proceedings of his Excellency the Governor and the Commiſsioners of Indian Affairs in Pursuance of the Directions of an Act, Entitled "An Act "to facilitate the Settlement of the Waste "and unappropriated Lands within this "State and for repealing the Act therein "mentioned". Paſsed the 11th of April 1785; including the Correspondence between the Governor and Commiſsioners preparatory to the present Treaty and Copies of some Letters respecting the Treaty of last Year.

Sir; Schenectady 20th April 1785.

We are under the Neceſsity of acquainting your Excellency, that We are presently threatened to be sued for Debts contracted by Us at the Indian Treaty at Fort Schuyler: We have been informed that the Honorable Legislature, have the Seſsion before this last, paſsed an Act to allow the Sum of five hundred Pounds; which Sum We stand in Need of to discharge the Debts as above. We have, as early as poſsible, transmitted our Accounts to the Legislature to have them examined, and have been long waiting the Event but to our Surprize when Mr. Matthew Visscher came up, We were informed that the Accounts had not been examined when he came away, & that there was very little Prospect of their being examined this Session, through the Multiplicity of Business before the House. We stand much in Need of your Excellency's Assistance and request, if in your Power, that You will issue your Warrant on the Treasury for the above Sum, and should it exceed, the Commissioners will always be accountable for the Overplus.

We wish, should your Excellency think proper, to give the Warrant to Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer whom We have requested to receive the Warrant and forward the Cash to Us p safe Opportunity.

We have the Honor to be &c,

His Excellency
George Clinton Esqr.

Abraham Cuyler
Henry Glen.

New York 1st. May 1785.

Sir,

The Legislature having by Act passed at their late Meeting directed the Governor and Commissioners for Indian Affairs, on or before the first Day of October next, to obtain a Cession or Grant to the Use of the State of such Lands within the same, now holden or claimed by the Native Indians as they shall be willing to dispose of on reasonable Terms. It is necessary that preparatory Measures should be immediately taken for opening a Treaty with them for this Purpose, and to this End I have now to request that You will, as soon as conveniently may be after the Receipt hereof, convene the Gentlemen associated with the Commissioners and confer with them on this Subject; And such Measures as they shall advise, You will please to carry into Effect, giving me seasonable Notice of your Transactions, particularly of the Time and Place agreed upon for the Treaty; the fixing of which, as well as determining on the Nations or Tribes to be invited, are among those Matters intended to be submitted to your Determination. The sooner the Business can be entered upon and accomplished, the more agreeable it will be to me, as least interfering with other public Duties with which I am charged, and which will call for my Presence at this Place the beginning of July, and necessarily detain me here the remaining Part of the Season. I need not mention the very small Sum of Money allowed for this Service will render the strictest Economy

Oeconomy neceſsary and I presume it would not be prudent to make any Provision for the Treaty before the Time and Place of holding it can be ascertained, as in the Course of the Negociations for this Purpose We may acquire such Information as will enable Us to form an Estimate of the Numbers We may expect to meet Us and so to calculate our Supplies as not to expend the smallest Proportion of Money in that Way, beyond what shall be absolutely neceſsary. I submit it to You also whether it would not be most adviseable to have the Supplies furnished by Contract; It would remove every Cause of Jealousy and Suspicion which I have discovered, however ill founded, to prevail, from the Commiſsioners having had an immediate Agency in that Part of the Busineſs; besides it would divest the Commiſsioners of much Care, Vexation, and Trouble & enable them to bestow their whole Attention to the more important Objects of their Commiſsion.

I will only add that the Person charged with your Meſsage to the

Indians, should in my Opinion be instructed to endeavour to discover their Sentiments with Respect to the Business of the Treaty, as by this Means We may be able to form some Judgment of the Issue of it, and I would recommend as much Secrecy in all your Transactions as their Nature will admit of, thereby to frustrate, as far as possible, any Measures which may be attempted to embarrass Us.

I am with great Respect. &c. &c.

Geo Clinton.

P.S. I take it for granted You have been informed by the Members of your County, of the Measures adopted by the Legislature respecting your Accounts which I laid before them as soon as I received them.

Gentlemen! New York 4th May 1785.

I did myself the Honor of writing to You on the 1st Instant before I opened your Letter of the 20th Ult. — It is unfortunate that your Accounts had not been immediately made out as ordered at the last Meeting of the Commissioners before I left Albany, so as that they might have been forwarded and laid before the Legislature last Fall; for had that been the Case, I have Reason to believe they would long since have been audited & the Balances paid, which would have prevented the Embarrassments You now experience from the Want of Cash.

It is true, the Legislature last Fall provided for the Payment of five hundred Pounds to the Commissioners of Indian Affairs on my Warrant, but this Sum is expressly appropriated to defray the Expence of a future Treaty, and cannot therefore be applied to any other Purpose. As I am informed Mr. Jeremiah Van Rensselaer does not leave Town for some Time yet and least the Business recommended in my last Letter, might meet with Delay for Want of Cash, I shall forward to You by Simeon DeWitt Esquire Surveyor General, who proposes to set out at an earlier Day, the above Sum, deducting therefrom forty Pounds paid Mr. Ryckman on Account last Fall, for which You will please to sign the Receipt accompanying it, to be transmitted by him to the Treasurer.

I enclose You an Extract of a Law passed last Session, directing the auditing of your Accounts and have requested the Auditor to write You on the Subject that You may be enabled to pursue such

Measures as may be judged necessary to effect the Settlement without farther Delay; so that You may have an Opportunity of drawing for the Balance while the Treasury is in Cash to discharge it.

I shall be happy to be informed of the Measures You may have taken in Consequence of my last as early as convenient.

I am Gentlemen &c.
To the Commiss.rs of Indian Affairs } Geo Clinton

Sir Albany 14th May 1785.

Yours of the 1st did not reach me until the 11th Instant, relative to the proposed Treaty with the Indians. We have had several Meetings on the Subject and intend to send off Mr. Ryckman to the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations, in two or three Days hence, with a Letter Copy whereof is enclosed.

As the Money allowed to make the Purchase is a small Sum and We suppose the Oneidas and Tuscaroras have more Land for Sale than We have Money to purchase, and their Lands will be of the most Service, to answer the present Purposes of the State, We have concluded to hold a Treaty with them only and not the other Nations, whose Lands lie more remote. We were the more readily induced to adopt this Measure as it will be attended with a much leſs Expence, since by those Means the Number of Indians will not only be much smaller, but the Oneidas and Tuscaroras can be easily persuaded to come down into the Interior Parts of the State, and of Course save Us the great Trouble and Expence of a Treaty at a Distance and leave Us a much larger Sum to make a valuable purchase. Besides which, We are confident that it would be impoſsible to have the other Nations who reside so far off to attend so soon as the Beginning of July, before which Time your Excellency requests the Treaty to be held.

As Purchases of this Nature are usually made in Indian Goods, as well as Money. We propose to buy for Part of the Money, such Articles as We suppose will best please them and which We are confident can be bought at a reasonable Rate in this City. In Order to purchase the Goods, as well as the Provisions neceſsary, your Excellency will be pleased to send up a sufficient Sum of Money for the Purpose by the first safe Conveyance. We shall soon have another Meeting, in Order to prepare and concert a Plan for carrying our Measures into farther Effect, and of which We shall give your Excellency from Time to Time a particular Account, hoping it will meet with your Approbation.

The Moment Mr. Ryckman returns or apprizes Us of the Time of holding the Treaty We shall give You the earliest Notice. I am with the greatest
Respect and Esteem &c

His Excellency
Governor Clinton.
Abraham Cuyler

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at the City of Albany 11th. May 1785.

Present.

Abraham Cuyler Presidt. }
Henry Glen } Commissioners
Abraham Yates Junr.
Abraham Ten Broeck
Genl. Gansevoort.
Peter W. Yates.

Mr. Cuyler laid before

the Board a Letter from his Excellency the Governor, on the Subject of holding a Treaty with the Indians for the Purpose of purchasing Lands for the Use of the State, which Letter is dated the 1st of May 1785 and is in the Words following towit: (See Copy of this Letter Page the 86th

The Board took the same into Consideration and thereupon;

Resolved, that the intended Treaty be held on the Subject aforesaid with the Oneydas and Tuscaroras, and that Mr. P. W. Yates prepare a Speech accordingly.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs held in the City of Albany 13th May 1785.

Present.

Abraham Cuyler
Henry Glen } Commissioners.
Abraham Yates Junr.
Volkert P. Douw
General Gansevoort.
Peter W. Yates
Matthew Visscher
Peter Ryckman Interpreter

Mr. Peter W. Yates laid before the

Board the Speech he had prepared agreeable to the Resolution of last Meeting, which being read and amended was agreed to and is in the Words following to wit,

Brothers of the Oneida & Tuscarora Nations.

The Governor of this State (at the Meeting of the Legislature last Winter) laid before them a Message from the Grasshopper delivered by Colonel Lewis, in Presence of Captn. David and Captain Hendrick, from which it appears [* that John Harper has lately been in the Oneida Country and by Misrepresentations and other unjust and unlawful Means obtained a Writing for a large Tract of Land in the Neighbourhood of Onaquaga and extending on both Sides of the Susquehannah River: That the Grasshopper and other Chiefs desired that the said Writing might be destroyed; that the White People might be prevented from coming among You to cheat You out of your Lands; That it might be made known through the Country that Harper has no Right to the said Lands, so that the People might not be deceived and that You looked up to this Government to take Care of your Rights. Of all these Things the Legislature were informed last Winter. We are very much surprised at Harpers Conduct.

We informed You at the Treaty last Summer that he had deceived You, and We then gave You a Caution against attempting to sell Lands to any Person, who had not an Authority and Licence from the Government, and yet We find that some of You have notwithstanding have suffered Yourselves to be again imposed upon by Harper, who has obtained a Writing for a large Tract of Land without the Authority or Knowledge of the Government, and therefore the Sale and Writing are void and good for nothing and although Application was made to the Legislature last Winter to have this Purchase of Harper's confirmed, it was refused because it was made without Authority from the State and against the Constitution. ⓐ We hope You will be more cautious for the future and not make any Sales or Writings of Lands to any Person who cannot shew You a good lawful Authority from the State to make a Purchase from You. As We understand that You are disposed to sell some of your Lands, We now inform You that You have an Opportunity to do it to the Governor and Commissioners who were with him at Fort Stanwix last Summer. The Legislature have passed a Law last Winter giving the Governor and Commissioners Authority & Licen to purchase Lands from You. And We have received a Letter from the Governor a few Days ago on that Subject, who hath requested Us to inform You, that he and the Commissioners will hold a Treaty with You at the German Flatts, in Order to buy Lands from You. And We now send Mr. Ryckman to You to deliver You this Letter and to bring back your Answer; that We may inform the Governor at what Time he and the Commissioners may meet You: We have requested Mr. Ryckman to agree with You about the Time. The Governor has Business of Importance to transact the Beginning of July, which will require his constant Attendance, the remaining Part of the Season. It will therefore be necessary to hold the Treaty as soon as possible. We mean to hold a Treaty for this Purpose only with You, and not with the Onondagoe, Cayugoe and Seneca Nations: they have in the late War done Us much Injury for which We expect they will hereafter give Us a proper Compensation in Lands.

Abraham Cuyler.
Henry Glen.
Albany. Peter Schuyler.

Resolved that the said Speech be forwarded immediately to the Indians by Mr. Ryckman the Interpreter.

Resolved, that a Letter be prepared to his Excellency the Governor in Answer to his Letter and informing him of the Proceedings of this Board. (See Copy of this Letter Page

Albany 20th May 1785.

Sir,

On Monday last I received a Letter from Joseph Brant, which I do myself the Honor to enclose to your Excellency. In Answer to this Letter I have informed him that he might rely that the Engagements made by the Commissioners of this State would be punctually complyed with; that I would communicate the Purport of his Letter to your Excellency & other Commissioners and that I expected to have it in my Power to advise him of their Sentiments on the Subject Matter of his Letter in a short Time. From the Situation in which I am placed by the State as a Commissioner, and my Vicinity to the Indians, I am subjected to the Inconveniency of daily Visits from them; a Circumstance which is attended with infinite Trouble and a considerable Expence. They imagine that as a Commiſsioner I ought to provide for their Subsistance, & furnish them occasionally with Liquor whenever they come down. I shall be happy to hear from You on the Subject of Brant's Letter and beg You will communicate your Sentiments to me as early as poſsible.

Remain your Excellency's &c.

His Excellency
Governor Clinton.

Peter Schuyler.

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(1) Cataraqui March 23d 1785.

Dear Sir,

I take the Liberty to acquaint You that I am entirely at a Loſs to know how to act and behave towards You New York State, concerning what paſsed between You and our selves at our last Meeting at Fort Stanwix. I have wrote several Letters among You according to Promise, but I never got an Answer to none of them. I thought it would be a serious Matter of what paſsed between Us & every thing was to be performed, so I think if that Engagement which was made should come to nothing, it will be your Faults. I am sorry to think your Minds are changed since the mighty Commiſsioners of Congreſs has been up also at Fort Stanwix. I therefore would be much obliged to You, if You would let me hear from You at this time and let me know your Intentions and Determination concerning our Transactions as above mentioned. Please to let me know which concerns me and my Sisters Children. I mean Land Matters; let be what it will, let me understand right. I will leave this Place in a few days. I shall be among the five Nations about the Middle of April next. I understand that Captain Aaron Hill is kept as Hostage for Negroes, which I am exceeding sorry for it. The Commissioners should compare our first Chief to a Slave, because We did not keep any Prisoners since Peace; so that they must keep our Chief in Room of a Slave, which is too hard to be complied with.

I am &c.

To Major Peter Schuyler. Jos: Brant.

I will always be very happy to see You no Matter for Times.

Sir Albany 27th May 1785.

Mr. Ryckman, who was charged with our Message to the Oneidas & Tuscaroras and who returned Yesterday, reports that the Sachems and Chief Warriors expressed their Readiness to treat with Us on the Subject of our Message and he has every Reason to suppose, from their peculiar Situation as to Provisions and other Necessaries, that the Treaty is well timed for the Advantage of the State.

In the Evening We convened the Associates and whereupon hearing Mr. Ryckmans Report and considering the Time necessary to purchase and convey the Provisions to the German Flatts were of Opinion.

1st. That the Treaty could not be held before the 16th. of June next.

2nd. That the Supplies of Provisions could be purchased with as little, if not less, Expence to the State by the Commissioners than by Contract, and that when purchased, to prevent Impositions the same be put in the Care of a discreet Person and he to be accountable for the Expenditures.

3rd. That at least 8,000 Rations of Provisions be purchased, besides the Necessaries for the Commissioners and such Gentlemen as may accompany them. — In Consequence of which Determination We shall instantly set about purchasing the Provisions and forward them to German Flatts, the Place appointed for holding the Treaty. We should be happy to be favoured with your Excellency's Directions respecting the purchasing of Goods for the Indians as soon as poſsible. The Aſsociates have again expreſsed their Sentiments that this Article is absolutely neceſsary.

The Troops in this Town and under whose Care the Indian Hostages are, will leave this in a Day or two, and the Continental Commiſsioners have directed the Officer to forward Provisions to Fort Schuyler for the Prisoners who are expected at that Place. The Commanding Officer has requested Us to take Charge of this Buſineſs and as We are at a Loſs to determine what to do, We should be happy in receiving your Excellency's Advice and Direction on this Head as soon as poſsible.

We are &c.

His Excellency Abraham Cuyler
Governor Clinton. Henry Glen.

At a Meeting of the Commiſsioners for Indian Affairs held at the City of Albany 26th. May 1785.

Present.

Abraham Cuyler
Henry Glen. } Commiſsioners.

Abraham Ten Broeck
Abraham Yates Junr.
John Ja: Beekman }

Gent.

Genl. Gansevoort
Matthew Visscher
Mr. Ryckman Interpreter

Mr. Ryckman reported that agreeable to the Directions of this Board, he had delivered the Message to the Indians and that in Answer thereto, the Sachems & Chief Warriors had informed him that they would be ready to meet the Commissioners at the Place appointed at such Time as the Commissioners shall appoint, of which they expressed a Desire to be informed as early as possible: That the sooner the Meeting could be held, the better. They also informed him that they expected some of their Indians from Niagara and wished that some Provisions might be sent to Fort Schuyler for them. They also expressed their Readiness to treat on the Subject of the Meeting.

New York 28th. May 1785.

Gentlemen

Being from Home when your Letter of the 19th. Instant was left at my Office, I did not receive it until the 24th. On the 4th. I had the Honor of writing You by Simeon DeWitt Esquire and transmitted You by him £460.0.0 being the full Balance of the Sum allowed by the Legislature for defraying the Expences of the Treaty. The Sum for making the Purchase

yet

y.t remains in the Treasury and I will bring it myself to Albany or forward it earlier, if a safe Opportunity offers, without the States incurring an extraordinary Charge of a Commission for its Conveyance. The Sum already sent I presume will be sufficient to enable You to make the necessary preparatory Arrangements as to Provision &c. — With Respect to the procuring of Goods to be employed at the Treaty I cannot think it would be prudent to do any thing more than to ascertain where they can be had at the cheapest Rate, until We can be informed whether the Indians are disposed to meet Us on the Invitation You have made them, lest if We make any absolute Bargain for Goods, they might be left on our hands, with a Loss to the State, should We be disappointed in making the intended Purchase or if the Indians should prefer Money to Goods. of which Particulars We shall be able to form a better Judgment on the Return of Mr. Ryckman. I am persuaded W. can meet with no Disappointment in procuring whatever Quantity We may want on a very short Notice. The Reasons You assign for treating with two Tribes only have certainly great Weight and unless We might expect that the other Nations would if present be disposed to make a voluntary Cession of Part of their Lands to the State agreeable to their Promises at our last Treaty, Their Attendance would only be an Incumbrance and Waste of Public Money and I presume that neglecting to invite them on this Occasion can afford no reasonable Cause of Umbrage; or it would have had its due Weight with the Commissioners in their determining on this Subject. I perfectly approve of your having employed Mr. Ryckman, as I have great Confidence in his Integrety and Zeal; and I am sensible his Services, as well from these Considerations, as from the good Opinion entertained of him by the Indians, will be useful to the State throughout the Treaty; yet it appears to me in making the Contract where the Parties ought to be explicitly understood. It would be highly necessary to have the Assistance of some Person, who is not only so well acquainted with the Indian Tongue, but also with the English as to give a perfect Translation of what passes into either. How far Mr. Ryckman is competent to this, You will be best able to judge. If he is not; in this Case I submit to You whether We ought not to look out in Time for some Person qualified to assist him. I know of none except Mr. Deane and from the Part he acted last Summer, Doubts may arise as to the Propriety of employing him supposing him willing now to serve Us: For my own Part, considering his former Engagements with Congreſs, I do not view his Conduct in so reprehensible a Light as to prevent our availing ourselves of his Services in the present Instance. This I mention lest he might be paſsed by under an Ideas that if they are really neceſsary, an Application to him might be disagreeable to me. Wishing to leave the Commiſsioners and Aſsociates to determine on this Point, as shall appear to them, all Circumstances considered, most likely to promote the Interest of the State by facilitating the Busineſs of the Treaty.

I am with great Respect &c.

Geo Clinton

To
The Commiſsioners
for Indian Affairs
Albany

Sir

New York 28th. May 1785

Yesterday I received your Letter of the 20th. Instant, enclosing one from Capt. Brant to You. In Answer to it I can only say that the Commiſsioners of this State for Indian

Affairs at their Treaty last Summer with the five Indian Nations, acted with Candour & Sincerity, of which You are equally sensible; and I may venture to affirm that whenever these Indians discover a Disposition to fulfil the Promises made by them at that Treaty, they will find the State equally disposed to fulfil the Engagements made by their Commiſsioners. It is unneceſsary to mention to You, that some Part of the Conduct of these Indians in their Treaty with the Commiſsioners of Congreſs was totally repugnant to their Profeſsions to the Commiſsioners of the State, and unleſs some satisfactory Explanation can be given of their Conduct; it is We that have Reason to complain. I am sensible from your Situation You must be exposed to extraordinary Trouble and Expences, and I regret that it is not in my Power to compensate without Legislative Provision for the Purpose.

I am with great &c:

Geo. Clinton.

P.S. With Respect to the private Affairs of Capt: Brant and Family, I have long since directed the neceſsary Measures to be taken for obtaining the Information he requires; but which owing to some unaccountable Delay or

Accident. I have not yet received. The Moment
I do, it shall be forwarded to him.

I am &c

Major Peter Schuyler. Geo: Clinton

New York 2nd. June 1785.

Gentlemen!

Yesterday I received your Letter of the 27th. of May. On the 28th. I wrote You in Answer to yours of the 14th. of that Month. I shall set out from this the Beginning of next Week; so as to be able to spend a few Days in Albany and reach the Place for holding the Treaty on the day appointed. Part of the Cash I propose to forward by Peter W. Yates Esquire, taking Charge of the Remainder myself. In my last I have fully expressed my Sentiments respecting the Purchase of Goods to be employed in the Treaty, and I am still of Opinion that the Matter should be managed as that should the Indians prefer treating with Us for Money, or should the Treaty prove abortive, We may not be obliged to pay the Public Money for Goods, which in the former Case cannot be employed to the Advantage of the State, and in the latter will be totally useless. To guard against this, a conditional Bargain ought to be made. It I presume there will be no Difficulty in getting whatever Quantity may be necessary, on these Terms, to wit, To pay for such Part as We may have occasion to use and the Cost of Transportation for what may be returned and Care ought to be taken not to engage even on these Terms a Surplus.

With Respect to forwarding Provisions to Fort Schuyler, as mentioned in your Letter, I am not authorised to give any Advice concerning it, being altogether foreign to our Duty as Commissioners, nor do I find myself disposed to interfere in the smallest Degree in any Matter whatsoever under the Direction of the Continental Commissioners.

I am with great Respect &ca

Geo Clinton.

To The Commissioners
of Indian Affairs
Albany.

On the 7th of June the Governor left New York accompanied by Colo. Floyd & & arrived at Albany Sunday Morning the 12th; where he discovered that an Answer was to have been sent to the Indians on the Return of Mr. Ryckman, if it was agreed by Us that the Treaty should commence the 16th as mentioned in the Commissioners Letter of the 27th of May; otherwise they were not to be expected at Fort Herkimer before the 20th. Whereupon (this not having been done) Mr. Ryckman was diſpatched to Oneida, to inform them of the Governor's Arrival and to request their Attendance with all poſsible Diſpatch.

At a Meeting of Commiſsioners for Indian Affairs held in the City of Albany the 14th. June 1785.

Present.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler }
Henry Glen Esqrs. } Commiſsioners.
General Schuyler
Volkert P. Douw
Abraham Yates Junr.
Abraham Ten Broeck
John Jas. Beekman
Matthew Viſscher.

Resolved that William Floyd and John Taylor Esqrs. be and hereby are aſsociated Commiſsioners.

Resolved unanimously, that it is the Opinion of this Board, that it would conduce to the Interest and Advantage of the State, in making the Purchase of Lands, that £1500, of the Money granted by the State, be laid out in Goods agreed to and according to an Invoice prepared and that Colo. Cuyler, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Visscher be a Committee to purchase the said Goods on the best Terms poſsible, on Condition that if the Purchase should not be made or the Goods not wanted for the Purpose, that the Owners take them back, the State being at the Expence of Transportation only.

The Committee accordingly purchased the same on the Condition aforesaid from Colo. Cuyler, Abraham Schuyler, Cuyler Gansevoort and Co. and Robeson and Hale.

Wednesday 15th June; every Thing being prepared; the Governor and Colo. Floyd left Albany and arrived at Schenectady that Evening. The other Commiſsioners and Aſsociates followed the next Day and the whole arrived at Fort Herkimer on Saturday the 18th in the Forenoon. Few of the Indians aſsembled at that Place before the 22nd in the Evening. In the intermediate Time the Commiſsioners were employed in adjusting the Manner of conducting the Buſineſs, preparing a Speech to open the Treaty and conversing with the Indians that arrived, on the Subject of the intended Negociations.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners
of Indian Affairs at Fort Herkimer
the 23.d of June 1785.

Present.

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler Peter Schuyler Henry Glen	Esq.rs Commissioners.	
Abraham Yates Junr. Abraham TenBroeck John Ja. Beekman William Floyd John Tayler Matthew Visscher	Esq.rs Associates.	
Volk. Ryckman James Dean	Interpreters.	
William Harper Christopher P. Yates John Harper		Col. Wemple Dr. Van Ingen & Samuel Clyde.

Among whom were the following Sachems and Chief Warriors to wit;

The Oneida and Tuscarora Nations being convened and seated, the Mohegans or Stock Bridge (a) Rhode Island, and Long Island Tribes, residing in the Neighbourhood of Oneida, at the Request of the Oneidas and Tuscaroras being also present; His Excellency the Governor requested them to inform the Board whether they were ready to proceed on Business and the Grass hopper answered they were. His Excellency thereupon delivered, by the Advice and Approbation of the Board, the following Speech to wit;

Brothers of the Oneidas & Tuscaroras!

We are happy to see You. We thank the Great Spirit for having preserved You & Us through another Year and given Us Health to meet again at this Council Fire and with these Strings We open your Ears that You may distinctly hear our Voice; wipe away your Tears that You may clearly see your Brethren and cleanse your Seats from Blood that on your Return home You may possess your Minds in Peace and find nothing to excite your Grief.

Brothers! We have already, in our Message delivered to You by Mr. Peter Ryckman, explained the Business to be transacted with You at our present Meeting. This We thought proper to do, that You might have Time to consider the Subject well and make up your Minds upon it before You left home, which We trust You have done.

Brothers! As well from what You mentioned to Us, when We met You in Council last Year at Fort Schuyler, as by your Message last Winter to the Governor, We find Attempts have been made by some White People to purchase Lands from You, South of the Unadilla, whereby much Uneasiness has arisen among You.

Brothers! You will remember We told You last Summer that no Individual had a Right to purchase Lands from You and cautioned You against making any Bargain or Agreement for the Sale of any of your Lands, unless the Person applying to purchase could produce a Licence in Writing from the Government of this State properly authenticated.

Brothers! We wish You to observe this Rule; it is a good one: it has subsisted long between your Ancestors and ours, who lived in Harmony and Friendship, and it was re-established in forming our present Government, in Order to perpetuate that Harmony and Friendship between You and Us, by preventing Frauds or Impositions which might be attempted to be committed on You by our White People.

Brothers! From what We have heard, We have Reason to conclude that You are disposed to sell some of your Lands, if You had an Opportunity of doing it agreeable to ancient Custom and the Constitution of the State, and We believe it would be your Interest so to do especially that Part that borders on the State of Pennsylvania, which being contiguous to the Settlements of the White Peoples, will soon be of little Value for hunting and the Price of it would enable You to purchase Cattle and Utensils of Husbandry and improve your Lands at Home to greater Advantage.

Brothers! We now give You this Opportunity. We are duly authorized by Law and We now offer, agreeable to ancient Custom, to purchase such Lands from You as You conceive it your Interest to sell, for which We are willing to give You a reasonable Price: This We hope will be the Means of healing the Animosities which have arisen amongst You, by the Attempts of Individuals to purchase from You without Authority.

Brothers! We informed You, by our Message inviting You to this Council, that the Governor was under indiſpensible Engagements to be in the City of New York the Beginning of next Month. It is therefore neceſsary that the Busineſs meet with Diſpatch and to this End We expect your Answer on the Subject as soon as poſsible.

After his Excellency the Governor had delivered the Introductory Part of the Speech, being the first Clause; The Graſshopper rose, recapitulated the Substance of it, returned Thanks for it and reechoed the Congratulatory Part of the Clause to the Commiſsioners. And after the Governor had concluded his Speech and a short Pause for Consideration. The Graſshopper rose again and spoke as follows to wit; Brothers! The Matters You have laid before Us are of such Importance, that it requires the utmost Deliberation. One of our Chiefs is yet absent and who has considerable Influence. We expect him down this Evening and in the Course of Tomorrow + + We will give You an Answer. That as his Excellency the Governor must return to New York We will use all Diſpatch, but request your Patience.

Then Peter rose and spoke

Brothers! We address ourselves to the Governor and Brethren of New York, whilst We are here in Council. We have desired You to keep your Seats, and will call to your Minds what was mention'd the Beginning of last War.

Brothers! The Commissioners of the United States at the Beginning of last War, in their several Interviews with Us, requested Us not to intermeddle in the War, but mind our Hunting and remain at Home in Peace. The Oneidas and Tuscaroras followed this Advice and a few of the Mohawks. Thus Matters stood until the American Army went to the Westward. That the Winter following himself, Scannendo and John Crygne were sent to Niagara: upon their Arrival they were close confined and that the Mohawks shared the same Fate with him and Scannendo. The Distresses of a Prison are great: these We have undergone, and had We succeeded, it would have been an Advantage to Us all, as it would have brought our Nations together; and altho our Confinement was long and rigourous, We stood it, trusting in the Great Spirit for his Assistance. That altho' they were at Liberty, they were kept as it were Prisoners. That three of them are alive still. One of the Mohawks is dead. As they had always remained inflexible to the Cause of America, it gave them great Joy when they heard of the News of Peace and were happy on returning to their Country, but were chagrined at the Reception of the Mohawk, who expected to seat himself in the Poſseſsion of his Farm and instead thereof he found others in Poſseſsion. That their Comrade who died in Captivity was equally attached to the Cause of America and would have continued in Confinement had their Liberty been offered; unleſs the same Liberty had been offered to the Oneidas. He requested the Governor and Commiſsioners to take this Matter into Consideration.

24th June 1785.

The Indians not being ready to deliver their Answer; This Day was spent in endeavouring to discover their Sentiments and it appearing from what could be collected that many of the Principal Indians were opposed to selling any [but a small Tract of Mountainous Land lying East of the Susquehannah and between that River and the Delaware not worth purchasing. A private Conference was held in the Evening with Peter and some other of the principal Chiefs, at which the Extent of the Tract We wished to purchase was described; The Reasons which induced the State to apply to purchase it fully explained; the Money and Goods brought for the Purpose shewn to them and every Reason offered that appeared likely to induce them to a Compliance.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at Fort Herkimer 25th June 1785.

Present
His Excellency Governor Clinton.
Abraham Cuyler
Peter Schuyler Esqrs. Commissioners
Henry Glen

Abraham Ten Broeck
Abraham Yates Junr.
William Floyd
John Jas: Beekman Esqrs. Associates.
John Taylor
Matthew Visscher.

Simeon DeWitt Esquire Surveyor General.

Alexander Clinton (1)

Peter Ryckman } Interpreters.
James Dean }

Petrus the Minister spoke as follows:

Brothers! You have informed Us that You are ready and We now desire your Attentio

Brothers of the State of New York! We are now met again in Council. It is some considerable Time since We met at this Council Fire that You have kindled here at Fort Herkim

Brothers! You have thought proper to call Us the Oneidas and Tuscaroras together to settle our Internal Affairs.

Brothers! I will in the first Place give You some Hints how Matters were conducted between our Ancestors; to give You the whole would require much Time.

Brothers! When our Forefathers met, they entered in Covenants of Friendship, to wit, they should have one Head, one Heart, and one Blood; this they cemented by a Silver Chain to prevent its contracting Rust.

Brothers! They were continually to keep it from Rust and prevent its breaking either by Tempest or Storm. By this Manner of Expressi it was meant that the Covenant should not be broken but remain inviolate and Peace was always to be the first Object. Your Brothers the Oneida's and Tuscaroras have met here to settle the Internal Matters between them & You. They remember all the Commiſsioners told them, which was wonderfully good.

Brothers! You have sent for Us to call Us down, by our Friend Mr. Ryckman and opened the Busineſs, which gave+ Us an Opportunity to consider of the Subject. We are convinced of the Impropriety of the Conduct of our Ancestors by selling here and there, by which Uneasineſs and Inconveniences have arisen. We had Reason to think that this Meeting was called to settle our Matters.

Brothers! We remember all the good Words You have told Us: You have frequently told Us to take Care of our Property, and had We been wise We had followed your Advices. Our Forefathers conveyed to every one who only put a few Dollars in their Bosom. Several Individuals had applied to Us to purchase Lands.

Brothers! I look to Futurity: We are pretty well acquainted with your Civil Affairs & altho' You have instructed Us respecting Religion, all We have of your Civil Affairs is by Observation and We will unburthen our Minds in hopes of your farther Assistance.

Brothers! Our Forefathers, in their Agreements together, stipulated that no light Matter nor concerning Trade should break their Friendship and it is often the Case that the most particular Friends cannot agree in a Bargain.

Brothers! Brethren ought to have a true Love to each other which cannot be broken.

Brothers! We desire your Attention. We now speak to You concerning the Conversation We had Yesterday when You expressed your Minds and Wishes fully and what You intended, with your Reasons at Length, which was very agreeable. It appears to Us that You apprehended Danger arising from that Quarter on Account of your People settling there and making Encroachments, by Means whereof Difficulties & Disputes might arise. We had already been making up our Minds on the Subject and our great Men had told You of the Result, but You answered it was by no Means an Object. We thought Brother, that We dealt honorably with You, and that We had agreed to dispose of a large Tract.

Brothers! You conversed with me in a private Manner. You told me the Proposals that We had made to You and that it was not an Object with You; I then desired to be informed what You wanted to purchase, which You readily complied with and shewed me the Map, on which was marked out the Tract You wanted to purchase, beginning at the Mouth of the Unadilla, following up that Stream 26 Miles; then across to the Chenango River, following that Stream to the Junction of the Susquehannah River and thence to the Place of Beginning. This You told me was what You wanted to purchase and that You would take in all the Lands lying to the East.

Brothers! We beg of You not to be uneasy when We tell You what Effect it had upon our young Men to sell such a large Tract, which would destroy their Hunting.

Brothers! We hope You will possess your Minds in Peace, when We tell You We cannot part with so much of our Hunting Lands, which are very dear to Us; as from thence We derive the Rags which cover our Bodies.

Brothers! Since the Winter past when We had heard your Minds on the Subject, several Individuals wanted to purchase Lands, but some of Us Resolved not to sell any on the Principle that they did not know what to do with our Offspring. Were We to listen to all the Overtures that are made to Us for the Purchase of our Lands (and altho' some who are fond of Liquor are inclined to it) We should have none for our Posterity, who would have Reason to blame Us. Since last Winter We had determined not to sell any of our Lands and that the Boundaries fixed should remain. The United States have informed Us that the Soil of our Lands was our own and We wish your Assistance to prevent Your People from coming among Us for that Purpose. We accept of your wise and salutary Advice and if We are not foolish We will follow it. We look to the Eastward. The Indians who lived there are now settled among Us and We have been obliged to give them Lands. This will be our Case should We sell our Lands as they have done.

Brothers! While the Indians had all their Lands, they were important: when they met their Friends, they could entertain them, but since they have parted with their Lands, the Case is altered.

Brothers! This will be our Fate when We part with our Lands. The German Flatts People, when they were poor applied to Us for Lands and they were Friends but now they are rich they do not use Us kindly. These People do not mind Us and at Times say they have paid Us which is not the Case and at other Times say they have not. We know very well that there are very large Tracts of Land within the Line of Property, that have not been paid for and We wish You to take Notice of it and if any Person will pay for them, he may have them.

Brothers! We had an Interview with our Brothers at the German Flatts,+ and altho' there were only two Points in Question, We debated a whole Night and nothing was done. This We wish You to take into Consideration, for a new Power has arisen since the War and We also request You to take into Consideration all the Lands lying within the Line of Property which have not been paid for.

Brothers! You have assured Us of your Assistance in the Protection and Enjoyment of our Lands and our Sachems thank You for it and wish You would continue to protect Us therein. As You did not accept of the Proposals We made, if We would not dispose of more of our Country, than had been offered, it was no Object for You to purchase. We are however willing and ready to lease one Tier of Farms in the Manner they are done by the White People along the Boundary Line throughout the Extent of our Country, and that People of Influence might be settled on these Farms to prevent Encroachments and that a Person might be appointed to collect our Rents annually.

Brothers! We shall be happy to find that the Proposals We now make will be accepted as We cannot sell any more of our Lands and this Leasing may be an Income to our Children.

Brothers! If You think proper to accept of this Proposal We have made, We wish that a Paper may be lodged with You and one with Us, that no Disputes may arise.

Brothers! This is the Voice of the Oneidas in three Clans and of the Tuscaroras in three Clans.

Brothers! You have now heard our Proposals. We have many Friends at Albany and Schenectady, who are poor and have applied to Us for Lands. We wish to gratify them and request they may settle on the Lands along the Line as We have mentioned.

Brothers! We wish to say something to You respecting the Stockbridge Indians, who are our younger Brethren and as such they are dear to Us: They have Claims to the Eastward, altho' their Lands are all gone & they know not how.

Brother the Governor! We ask your Assistance respecting their Lands: there are thirteen Governors and they have now every Reason to suppose they will obtain Redress and hope that the Governor will see that Justice is done to these our younger Brethren, and it is unjust that one Brother should take the Property of another. For these Reasons We address the Governor with this Belt and hope that We will receive every Assistance in Order that these our younger Brethren may receive Satisfaction for their Lands.

Brothers! We would now say something to You: when the Boundary Line was fixed at Fort Stanwix, a great Number of the great Men were there. That Line was long disputed and at last settled: Sir William told Us, that wherever there was an Indian Settlement, one Mile should remain round it for its Use;

as long as such Settlement should continue. The Oriske Indians are in that Situation: they are still in Poſseſsion and ought to have a Mile Square; also the Settlement of Unadilla. Sir William also told Us, that if there were any Lands within the Boundary Line which had been contracted for, that the Contract should stand and the White People should pay the Money, and if in running this Line, any Lands that had then already been sold, should not be comprehended in it: the Lands which might remain without, altho' paid for, should revert to Us: That no Lands which had been ſold were beyond that Line but a Number within it, which has not been paid for. One at the Mouth of Unadilla, of a Mile square: the other between two Branches of the Susquehannah, the one called Charlotte and the other Aurawit: part of this last has not been paid for and was purchased by Colonel Harper. One other Tract which begins at Aurawit and from thence down the Susquehannah to Unadilla and then along the Line of Property to the Delaware, being all the Lands lying North of that Line and

South of the second Tract. This was purchased by Colonel Bradstreet and not paid for. One other Tract lying on the Delaware and on the East Side of the Mohawk Branch at the Cook House. This Tract, altho' within the Line of Property, was reserved with one Mile around it. 5 Tract beginning near the German Flatts and extending up to Susquehannah and so Northwards: Part of this Tract has not been paid for. — Here the Governor, finding that much time would be taken up in giving a Description of Claims, informed them, that it would not be in his Power to do any Thing but hear what they had to say respecting this Matter, before the Meeting of the Legislature; and therefore advised them when the Council Fire was covered up, to make out the Remainder of their Claims in Writing, and he would receive and lay them before the Legislature, with which they were contented and promised so to do and Peter proceeded;

Brothers! We want to know why the Lands We proposed to sell are not an Object worthy of Purchase, as it is a pretty large Tract.

26th June 1785. At a Meeting of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs at Fort Herkimer.

Present,

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler
Peter Schuyler } Esqrs. Commissioners.
Henry Glen

Abraham Yates Junr.
William Floyd.
Abraham Ten Broeck
John Ja: Beekman } Esqrs. Associates.
John Tayler
Matthew Visscher

Peter Ryckman } Interpreters.
James Dean

Colo. Yates
Mr. Surveyor General
William Harper Esqr.
Alexander Clinton.

The Oneida and Tuscarora Nations being convened and ready to proceed on Business, his Excellency the Governor delivered to them the + following Speech, towit:

Brothers! We have at Length received your Answer to our Speech and have considered it very attentively.

Brothers! You have remended Us how Business was ures concluded between your Ancestors and ours and the Means that were used to strengthen the Chain of Friendship between them and to prevent its contracting Rust. It is our sincere Desire to follow their good Example, so that the ancient Covenant subsisting between them may be inviolably preserved between You and Us.

Brothers! We had Buſineſs to transact with You, in which We conceived our mutual Interest and future Peace and Happineſs was concerned. It is unneceſsary now particularly to repeat it: We fully explained it in our first Meſsage by Mr. Peter Ryckman inviting You to this Council Fire. We mentioned it to You again in our Public Speech at this Place and least We might not have been clearly understood by You, We afterwards gave a more full and particular Explanation of the whole Matter and the Reasons which influenced Us to meet You, to several of your Sachems and Warriors, who promised to inform You of it, and which We trust has been done.

Brothers! Our Friendship is of an old date: it has gained Strength by Time, and it is not to be affected by any trivial Matter respecting Trade; but to preserve this Friendship even among

Brothers

Brother, whenever Busineſs is to be transacted or Bargains to be made, it is neceſsary that Candour and Truth should be observed, which on our Part We have carefully done.

Brothers! It would be unreasonable in Us to harbour any Displeasure or Resentment against You for declining to sell your Lands, if You think it your Interest not to part with them; but your Bargaining for the Sale of your Lands with Individuals, who had no Right to buy and thereby introducing Confusion in our Government and laying the Foundation of future Discord between Us, were among the Reasons which induced the State to propose a Treaty with You to purchase them. We came not to ask them as a Favour; We came prepared to pay a generous Price for them, and for that Purpose We brought a large Sum of Money and a great Quantity of suitable Goods with Us.

Brothers! We acquainted You with our Busineſs, when We invited You to meet Us, and thereby gave You Time to make up your Minds on the Subject. We had a Right therefore to expect You would have dealt candidly and openly with Us, and if You did not incline to sell any of your Lands, that You would have told Us so by the Return of a Messenger, and saved Us the Trouble and Fatigue of so long a Journey: this would have been acting a friendly and open Part. It is true You have offered to sell Us a small Tract of Land; but from your Knowledge of the Country, You must be sensible, that a great Part of it is mountainous, unfit for Cultivation, and therefore cannot be an Object with Us: and when We reflect that it is even less in Quantity and far inferior in Quality, than what You had been about to sell to an Individual, We can hardly believe You were serious when You made the Offer of this Tract to Government, especially as We explained our Reasons for wishing to have Land in that Quarter, and that so small a Tract could not answer any good Purpose.

Brothers! We told You We came to buy Lands for Government: that We were able and had Money to pay for it. We are sorry that You made an Offer to lease your Lands. We fear You have lost your good Opinion of Us, by making a Proposal which, if accepted, would make the Government of the State tributary to You: had You been as open as Us in our private Interviews as We were with You, We would have told You, that this Offer would have been highly disagreeable and that your Brothers would reject it with Disdain. This We believe would have prevented those things coming from your Lips.—

Brothers! We must now dismiſs this Subject with only repeating that We are sorry We cannot agree, and We are the more so because your Conduct in bargaining with some of our White People has put in their Minds, to look for Settlements in that Quarter and as it is remote from our old Settlements and where We have too little Lands to form new ones, large enough to give Force and Energy to our Government. We are afraid it may be productive of Disorder and Mischief which it may be difficult to prevent and that Uneasineſses may thereby be created between You & Us. Should any thing of this Kind happen which We sincerely wish however may not be the Case, We now entreat You Brothers to remember that We aprize You of our Apprehensions, and to obviate them. We propose to purchase those Lands from You, which from your own Conduct might occasion Disputes and that if this is not now done it is your Fault and not ours, for We now again repeat our Offer to You.

Brothers! We shall now proceed to answer that Part of your Speech which respects the Line of Property established at Fort Stanwix, and your Claims to certain Parcels of Land lying on our Side of it.

Brothers! We always considered that Line as a Line established to prevent all Disputes and this is the first Intimation We have ever received that You considered it in any other Point of View. In your Address to the Legislature during the War to take Measures for securing your Property, You described your Western and Northern Boundary and mentioned that there could be no Dispute with Respect to the Southern & Eastern Boundary; That You had one Paper and We another which ascertained them. In your Answer to our Speech in Council last Year at Fort Schuyler, You again repeated this Idea to Us, without mentioning any Claims You had on Lands on our Side of that Line, except that You had not been paid for some Part of the

Oriskee Patent, which We then informed You was claimed by some of our White People, who alleged that they had long since honestly purchased and paid for it.

Brothers! You say that in the Agreement made between Us at Fort Stanwix, to establish a Boundary Line, it was stipulated that where ever there was an Indian Settlement on our Side of that Line, You were to continue to hold the same to the Extent of one Mile square: That if there were any Lands on our Side of the said Line that had been contracted for and the Price not paid, that You were to have the Money; but if any of our People had purchased Lands from You, which might fall on your Side of the Line, such Lands were to revert to You, altho' the Price had been paid: now Brothers, tho' this does not appear to be very reasonable, yet as We have not the Papers signed at Fort Stanwix with Us, We cannot contradict it. We are willing to stand to that Agreement in all its Parts, for We consider it binding upon Us, and are determined in all things to be governed by the Rules of Justice.

Brothers! You have now mentioned to Us

Claims You have to several other Tracts of Land on our Side of this Line; some of which You say have been paid for, only in Part, and others that You had not sold: these are new Matters to Us; We never before heard of them: had You informed Us before We left home with the Nature of your Business, as We did You of ours, We would have come prepared to have given You a satisfactory Answer; but as our Papers relative to these Matters are at New York, We can now only hear what You have to say on this Subject and on our Return home We will, as soon as the Legislature convenes, lay your Claims before them, that they may be properly investigated; at the same Time We assure You of our Disposition to do whatever is just and right respecting them.

Brothers! With Respect to the Business of the Stockbridge Indians recommended by You to our Consideration, It is not new to Us; long after that Part of the Country, which they inhabited and which lies within our State was settled and improved by our White People, These Indians claimed Part of it, alleging that they not sold or been paid for the whole. — This brought on Enquiries under our former Government, but We cannot learn that they were able to support any of their Claims. Since the late War our Brethren the Stockbridge Indians again applied to Us, in Consequence of which (We being desirous to do them the most perfect Justice) their Claims were very fully enquired into, when it appeared that every Part of the Country formerly possessed by them and lying within this State had been purchased and paid for by our White People, and some of it, to avoid Dispute with them, a second and even a third Time. And farther; that some of these Lands, to which they now lay claim, were formerly relinquished by their Ancestors in a public and open Treaty in the Presence of the Mohawk Nation; at which Treaty they also acknowledged that they had no Titles to any Lands within this State on the East Side of Hudson's River. It is unfortunate that your younger Brethren have so soon forgot what their Ancestors have done, and that they are so easily led astray, by the Stories of some designing White People, who profess to be their Friends only with a View to serve their own private Interest.

Brothers! We have duly attended to the Case of your Father the Mohawk and our Brothers Skonondo and Peter who were employed in the Course of the War by the Continental Commiſsioners in the Service of the United States. This Buſineſs appears to have been transacted under the Direction of the Servants of Congreſs, and does not come properly before Us: We can therefore only say that it is our sincere Desire that they may receive a generous Compensation for whatever Services they may have performed, or Sufferings they may have sustained: That this State will most cheerfully contribute to it, whenever We are furnished with a Certificate from the Commiſsioners of Congreſs stating the Facts respecting this Matter. We shall readily as your Friends and immediate Brethren, afford them our Aſsistance in obtaining the most ample Justice, and will also pay due Attention to the particular Case of your Father the Mohawk when the Facts respecting it can be ascertained. The Governor having concluded; after some Consultation, Petrus the Minister an Oneida Chief, rose & spoke as follows, to wit;

Brothers! After our Speech of yesterday, You informed Us that You would speak today. We have several Speakers among Us and they speak alternately, but for this Time they have fixed on me.

Brothers! In your Speech, You answer that Part of ours which respects the ancient Mode of proceeding and expreſs your Wish to follow the good Examples of our Forefathers, which is very agreeable to Us. You then mention that if no Bargains can be effected among Brothers, that it ought not to break their Friendship. This is right and We are happy that You have taken the Matter in that Light. It is true that no trivial Matters ſhould break our Friendship for the Eyes of the World are upon Us and their Ears are open and they would cry "Shame" if We broke our Friendship.

Brothers! The Meſsage which was sent by Mr. Rychmans was well delivered, except one Word which We did not comprehend, which was, that You wanted to purchase Lands, and We only understood that no Person had a Right to purchase without a Licence

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from Government, and then left to Us whether We would meet You on the Subject of settling Matters respecting Lands and We were happy on the Occasion, as We supposed that every Matter should be settled. — That as to this Tract, which You marked out to buy, You will excuse Us from parting with it, as it is our hunting Ground. We suppose however it will be sold by the next Generation and wish that We may be sufferd to breathe a little upon it.

Brothers! Respecting the Lands which our Friend John Harper had been about purchasing, this was in the Course of the War, and Part of the Tribe had only consented to it: The Property is joint and all must consent, as the whole of the Tribe did not consent and disagreed about it, a Message was sent to New York. I was abroad when the Message was sent, I do not particularly know the Purport of it but vaguely to the Substance of it. Colonel Lewis carried it and he will tomorrow relate it, and We wish that Colonel Harper may be present to point out the Persons who have received Money from him. When Colonel Lewis returned from New York, he reported that the Contract with Colonel Harper was disapproved of by the Legislature, and the reason

We were glad to hear the Report that Colonel Lewis brought from New York, that the Bargain was null and void, and We now take this Opportunity to declare that the Bargain is null and void. Reports have informed Us that Colonel Harper sold Part of these Lands and that People settle on them, which We conceive is very unusual for People to sell, until they have first paid and the Property secured to them. It is true We may have Trouble on Account of not selling these Lands, but if We have done no Hurt, nor any Act of Violence and our having a large Tract of Land, will draw Us into Difficulties, We must submit to our Fate. It is sometimes usual that People break through their Bargains and Colonel Harper can pay these People he has sold to, by giving them of his Lands he purchased long ago, and if Colonel Harper has paid any Money, We will meet Tomorrow and Colonel Harper must point out these People to whom he has paid any Money.

Brothers! You have yet a large Tract of Country unsettled: Was that settled it would be an Act of Kindness in Us to part with some to our Brethren. The Land that You apply for is our Deer-hunting Country, and the Northern our Beaver-hunting Country. Therefore wish You to poſseſs your Minds in Peace and not to be offended at Us for not parting with our Lands. Last Fall in the Treaty at Fort Schuyler the Commiſsioners borrowed two Belts of Wampum from Us which have not been returned: We now take the Liberty to ask for them.

Then the Council Fire was covered until Tomorrow; and the Evening spent in private Conference with ſeveral Chiefs and Warriors and in preparing a Speech, which however from the favourable Turn the Buſineſs took, it became unneceſsary to deliver.

At a Meeting of the Commiſsioners
of Indian Affairs 27th. June 1785.

Present as Yesterday.

The Indians being aſsembled and the Governor and Commiſsioners seated; Peter the Minister rose and spoke as follows:

Brothers! You have now brought our Pipes together to enter into ſome further Conversation. We have several times spoke and sometimes near each other. It often happens that

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that in the Course of a Night Peoples Minds get altered. I have been informed, the Governor expreſsed his Astonishment that I who had been with the Enemy should speak so often. My Character is well known and if I did not stand well with this State, I may with another and I will for the future no more speak in transacting Busineſs with the Commiſsioners, but I will attend their Council and a feast and should continue until the Commiſsioners of the United States expreſs the same Sentiment.

Whereupon Peter the Quarter Master spoke as follows;

Brothers! We ask your Attention and the Attention of the Warriors. We have several Days been busy on the Subject of Lands. We have all of Us been considering the Matter and our Women have also considered it and We have all agreed to sell as follows. To draw a Line from the Mouth of the Unadilla River with a direct Course to the Chenango River and so down the same.

Brothers! We have again met on the Subject of Lands. We have agreed to give You such a

Tract as will satisfy You. The Tract is large and We understand You have brought Money and Goods with You which We expect will be produced and laid down for Us and this will be a final Treaty for Lands; and as this is done by the unanimous Consent of our Tribe and as We wish to have no future Contention We wish when You run the Line, You will let Us know, that some of our People may attend and be present.

Brothers! You will make the Agreement in Writing and leave one with Us, that our Future Generations may not dispute about it, as others have done before. — Here Peter delivered the Governor a large Belt and took his Seat.

Whereupon his Excellency the Governor observed to the Indians that the Land which they now proposed to sell, was not above half the Quantity We had asked for and altho' We would agree to accept of it at a reasonable Price, We could by no Means think of giving all the Goods and Money We had brought with Us for it, as We had brought sufficient to buy the whole at a generous Price, and more than they had ever before received for a like Quantity.

Whereupon Peter rose again and replied that the Land they had now agreed to sell was more out of Friendship, than out of a pecuniary Reward and that they could not part with any more.

The Governor then proposed that the Matter should be referred for farther Consideration till Tomorrow.

The Graſshopper then rose and spoke as follows;

Brothers! As We are now met on Matters of great Importance respecting Lands, it is a Matter that requires great Deliberation, and as our Anceſtors have always forbid Us to transact Busineſs of this Nature at the Close of the Day, We are happy to find that You have referred it till the Morning. We have however something to communicate of another Nature.

Brothers! At the Commencement of the late War, it is well known that the Oneidas & Tuscaroras took an active Part in it with the State of New York: And altho' the Emiſsaries of Great Britain attempted to seduce them from the Cause of America by aſserting that by joining the Americans they would get Lice, as they were only a lousy People; but however altho' they expreſsed the Americans were lousy, they have although lousy overcome their Enemies who boasted of their own Proweſs.

Brothers! You are well acquainted with our Fidelity and that We retreated to Schenectady and our Friend James Dean accompanied Us. During our Stay there We sustained many Loſses and great Inconveniences. We wish therefore to say something respecting him.

Brothers! When We considered the Situation of our Friend at Schenectady, without Money and altho' our Enemies told Us the Americans were lousy, yet We trusted that the Congreſs had Money but none came. We then considered his Situation and promised him a Piece of Land. Accordingly when Peace came, We gave him a Piece of Land at the Oneida Lake; but in the last Spring We saw his Situation and by the Overflow of the Water, We were apprehensive he would get drowned and Resolved, considering his Importance to Us, to remove him from there and fix him between Fort Schuyler & Oneida on or near the Line of Property that he may farther aſsist Us. We have also considered the Friendship We have received from our Friend Colonel Wemple, who turned out an Ox for Us and gave Us Bread when We were hungry, Drink when We were dry and his House was our own. We therefore have agreed to give him Lands to the Extent of a Mile square next to Mr. Dean.

Brothers! You have aſsured Us that our Lands were our own. This Act is voluntary and out of pure Regard and We request our Brothers to give them a Title for the ſame, according to the Laws of the State. In Confirmation whereof We give You this Belt.

The Governor did not think proper to interrupt the Busineſs, by any immediate Reply to what was ſaid by Peter the Minister, especially as he was much opposed to sell any of their Lands, and his Speeches appeared to have great Weight with the Indians, so that his Silence was considered rather advantageous than otherwise But when the Busineſs of the Day was over, the Governor desired Mr. Dean the

Interpreter to inform Peter, that he was much surprized at what he had said. That if he had heard the Reports he had mentioned, it would have been his Duty and more Honorable, to have communicated them to the Governor in the first Instance privately and in that way been ascertained of their Truth, than to have mentioned them, as he did, in Public Council: That from the Governor's Conduct & Behavior towards him from his first meeting with him at that Place, he had Reason to believe those Reports were false and that the Governor entertained a favorable Opinion of him: That the Governor wished to see him at his Lodgings in the Evening to have an Explanation of this Matter.

In the Evening Peter, with several other Chiefs, waited on the Governor and without waiting for the Governor to introduce the Subject, confessed his Error, declared that he had discovered the Report came from some of their own People; that it was false. It was the Report of the Birds: that he was happy the Disgrace was removed from him and that he possessed the Governor's good Opinion, and that he would reassume his Place at the Council Fire, and do Business there as usual, and after taking a Drink and

sending

smoaking a Pipe, parted in great good Humour.

At a Meeting of the Commissioners &c.
28th. June 1785.

Present as before;

His Excellency the Governor informed the Oneidas and Tuscaroras that when We parted Yesterday, altho' We had accepted their Proposal to purchase Lands from them as far as the Mouth of Unadilla; We had not agreed concerning the Price, as they asked the whole of our Money for it, and We conceived the Money was amply sufficient to pay for the whole Extent of Country We asked, to wit, 20 Miles; but that if they came ten Miles farther than what they offered which would be splitting the Difference, they should have the whole Money and Goods; and in Order that the Matter might be considered, the Council Fire was covered over till this Morning, and now requested their Answer, informing them at the same time, that if Matters could be compromised between Us, that a Line should be run and marked in the Presence of our People and theirs and every other Matter satisfactorily adjusted.

Thereupon the Grasshopper rose and spoke as follows.—

Brothers! We have now brought our Pipes together, as You proposed We should meet the succeeding Day. Had Providence not approved of our Business, some of our Chiefs would not have been able to meet to proceed on Business and thereby We might have been prevented from finishing.

Brothers! We are convened again today upon the Matters deliberated upon Yesterday and on which We were farther to deliberate till today. This being a Matter of a Civil Nature, cannot be deliberated or considered on in the Night. You proposed to purchase from the Mouth of the Unadilla, twenty Miles up it and so West and We had agreed to sell as far as the Mouth of the Unadilla. Yesterday You proposed We should sell You, to the Extent of ten Miles from the Mouth of the Unadilla. We have taken your Request into Consideration and have agreed to grant your Request. We expect this will be the last Application for Lands. We have Papers in our Pockets &c. We suppose You have the same, if You have not lost them, in which You have recommended to Us to love our Country and We are sure this News about selling our Lands, will make a great Noise in the Six Nations, when they hear that they have sold so much of our Lands, and therefore We hope We shall never be applied to any more for any of our Country.

Brothers! We are now going on with the Business of the Treaty; that which relates to the Governor of the State of New York is compleated: That which now is before Us respects ourselves and one of our Brothers. Our Country is like a Loaf of Bread: it is true We can cut off a little more: That We speak of now, is our Friend Mr. Dean. We wished to have him near Us to assist Us and be near our Council Fire. We had chosen a Spot for him, and some time after We found him surrounded with Water. We have taken him out and now give him two Miles square but least We may put him in the Water again, We allow him to choose for himself. This We give him in Consequence of his long and faithful Services. We likewise give our Brother

Colonel Wemple a Tract of one Mile square adjoining this Tract, so that they may look at each other and request that You may confirm this according to the Laws and Constitution of this State, and that our Friend Mr. Peter Schuyler may be present when the Lines are run. This Matter We mentioned to You Yesterday.

The Governor then informed them that whenever it would ſuit them, the Deed was ready for them to execute and the Money and Goods, and also all the Provisions which remained on hand, should be delivered them. That the Provisions was to be considered as a present in Testimony of the Friendship of the State for them, who considered it was a Season when Victuals was scarce among them. That it gave Us Pleasure that the Busineſs We met upon was accomplished. That with respect to their Application in Behalf of their Friends Mr. Dean and Colonel Wemple, We had every Reason to believe it would readily be complied with by our great Council, and at the same applauded their Conduct for this Act of Generosity and Gratitude; that the ſooner this was done the better.

The Deed having been previously prepared with a Blank for the Boundaries: they were now inserted, the Substance of the Deed explained by the Interpreters and the Goods brought into the Barn where the Council was held and the Money laid upon the Table. The Deed was then executed by the following Indians who were appointed for the Purpose by the whole; towit: ⓐ

The Indians took immediate Charge of the Goods; but requested the Commissioners to lock up the Money for them in their Chest until Morning. To which Time the Governor informed them the Council would be adjourned and that he would then meet them to return them their Money and cause the Provision which was promised them to be delivered and then take his Leave of them, and the Council was then adjourned accordingly.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners for Indian Affairs at Fort Herkimer the 29th June 1785.

Present as Yesterday, except the Mayor, Mr. Yates and Colo. Cuyler who had set out in the Morning for Albany.

The Commissioners returned the Money to the Indians and also the following Articles of Provisions which remained on hand, to wit, 10 Barrels of Pork, 12 Do. Flour, 13 Do. Corn, 300 Wt. Bread, 4 Barrels Rum, 30 Kegs of Do., 5 Bushels of Salt, 2 fat Cattle. The Governor then recommended to them, as Money was scarce and of great Value, to take Care and not spend it idly, but to lay it out for Cattle and farming Utensils, which would be of Use to them and not part with any of their Goods, as they were cheap and very valuable, but take them home and lay them up against cold Weather.

The Governor then, in Behalf of the Commissioners, with the usual Ceremonies and mutual Congratulations took Leave and extinguished the Council Fire, and thereupon immediately commenced his Journey for Albany where he arrived the 30th of June in the Evening.

At a Meeting of his Excellency the Governor and the Commissioners of Indian Affairs and Associates at Albany the 1st July 1785.

Present

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

Abraham Cuyler – Commissioner.

General Schuyler
General Ten Broeck
Abraham Yates Junior
John Ja: Beekman
William Floyd
Peter W. Yates
John Taylor
Matthew Visscher.

Esquires Associates.

Resolved; that his Excellency the Governor give a Certificate to the Commissioners for the Amount of the Sum of Money expended in Gratuities (the whole of which amounting as p. Account exhibited to £164. 8. 8 which was given accordingly.

Resolved, that a Committee of three be appointed to examine and liquidate the Accounts of the Expenditures of the Commissioners in the late Treaty and certify the same.

The Commissioners of Indian Affairs having represented to his Excellency the Governor and Associates for transacting Indian Affairs, that Indians of the six Nations residing within this State, sometimes came down on public Business and require to be supported with Provisions during their Stay and on their Return home and requested to know what Line of Conduct to hold with such Indians. His Excellency and the Associates answered, that as they are permanent Commissioners and the Governor and Associates only appointed for a particular Purpose, they cannot give any positive Directions on that Head. They are however of Opinion, that under the Laws by which the permanent Commissioners are appointed, they are to conduct in such Manner towards the Indians as will

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best promote the Interest of the State and keep up a good Understanding with them and that it appears to his Excellency & Associates it would be prudent to supply such Indians as came down to the said Commissioners on public Business, with Provisions, having a due Regard that the Expenditures be with Oeconomy and doubt not but their Disbursements on such Occasions will be allowed of and paid by Order of the Legislature.

The Deeds for the Lands purchased was proved by two of the subscribing Witnesses in Albany before the proper Officer and is now lodged with the Secretary of the State to be recorded.

The Surveyor General has run the Out Lines in the Presence of Indians appointed by the Tribes to attend and a rough Sketch of the Survey is with the Commissioners of the Land Office. The Governor advanced to the Surveyor General out of the Monies allowed for Contingencies £ towards defraying the Expence of the Survey &c.a

Among the Clinton Papers at the State Library may be found, No. 5842, the Minutes which should have been entered here. They were also printed in Munsell's Historical Series, vol. 9, pp. 110 et seq. J. M

29 March 1784

Minutes of the Proceedings with the Indians of the Village of St. Regis respecting their Claim to the Tract of Land from a Creek a little above the Long Sault to River Raisin. Six Leagues in depth. —

Present
Lieut. Colonel Campbell Superintendent
Lieut. McDougall, 84th. Regiment
Mr. Kotte, Deputy Surveyor
Messrs. Lorimier & La Motte Interpreters

Monday 20th. March 1784, Lieut. Col. Campbell sent a Message to the Indians of St. Regis to meet him on Thursday following at C. Maux du Lac which they did accordingly.

He first sent in for two of their principal Chiefs in whom he could most confide, to gain them over to his measures, representing to them that as he always remarked them to have the greatest share of sense amongst all his other children of St. Regis, and so often in use to open the ears of the thoughtless and Young men of that Village to hear whatever he said, and knowing it to be for their Interest, that he was upon this occasion very glad to see them least the inexperienced might be alarmed at any proposition from his mouth. Then he explained to the two Chiefs their indisputable claim and demand &c. and desired them to communicate it to the different Tribes, before it was talked of in Public.

The two Chiefs returned to the Block-house where the rest were lodged,

Col. Campbell a considerable time after=wards when he judged his intentions had time to operate, desired the whole to assemble about twenty three in Number and after all the forms usual on such

Occasions

because [illegible] a String of Wampum to open their ears and clear their understandings, with a little Cloath to wipe their Eyes. He addressed them nearly to the following purport.— Children, when I was lately at Quebec the great Man your Father there received a letter from Sir John Johnson, which mentioned your having objected to the Loyalists settling upon the Lands in Question alledging you had a prior right or claim to that land, I must acquaint you that before he granted these Lands to your Brothers the Loyalists, He first searched every place and all the Records of the Province, to see if he could find any other person had a right to it but could find none.

Which is belonging to the King your great Father and protector over the Water, He gave to your Brothers his other Children that were obliged to leave their own property to come to this Country under his protection from the Rebels, at the same time he did not forget you or thought in the least to have encroached on any part of your land.—

Now I wish to be more acquainted with your pretensions to these Lands as it is a Matter of indulgence entirely proceeding from Your great Father below and his wish to favor you upon every occasion in his power to send me at this time to offer a reasonable Compensation in Money or Goods, for your having been in use to reap some Benefit from the Lands as being contiguous to your Village and Islands, as they are so given away now and I fear cannot be got back. I explained this business a little time ago to some of the Chiefs now present, and I expect for your own Interest that You will not ask any thing that will make me blush and that You will go about this business with that temper, Moderation, good conduct and fidelity which so often distinguished You"

Presenting to them a Belt of Wampum.—

In a short time afterwards the Chiefs answered"

" Father we have Cheerfully obeyed your call and came here this day to meet you and to hear your words, we are very glad to see you because we expect you will settle this business with us, when we saw Number of people coming to settle upon our lands and spoke to Sir John Johnson a Cloud covered our Village and great Murmurs prevail amongst our Chiefs, Warriors, Women and Children to see our lands given away [illegible] lost their property and you cannot but know that we lost our Blood also in this War.

Father you ask us likewise what pretensions we we have to these lands, we shall tell you the whole history of it.

When General du Kaine was in this Country these lands were projected by Father Gordon for us who choosed to leave the Village of Caughnawaga because of the ill: effects of [illegible] place and to shun it, to which the General gave his consent, and to whom we sent our Belt Agreeable to our custom to be sent to France for a Ratification or exchange from the French King; Unfortunately for us soon after the General went to France and we never heard any more of it, After the King our Great Father got this Country and about Eighteen Years ago we went to Sir William Johnson, to whom we repeated our case and he confirmed us in settlement by this Belt" here they presented a Belt, which they said he gave them" and the great Kings words sealed by himself" shewing his Majesties proclamation in 1763, counter Signed by Sir William Who at the same time told us that we might depend our property would be safe to the end of the World and recommended to us to allow no white people

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settle amongst us, otherways they should loot us and spread like oil upon Cloth.

In the last Council General Carleton had with us he told us never to loose courage because we defended our own lands and assisted our Great Father and Brothers over the Water and you cannot but remember that as ften as you cloathed us and gave the white ornaments) Medals, arm Bands &c.a that we mentioned our wish should whiten our hearts in like manner. Now Father do not be sorry that we refuse any consideration in Money or Goods for the Land in Question, because no other land will answer so well our Convenience in Maintaining us and to Give us Bread. —

And here is Your Belt back

Col.o Campbell. "Children you seem not to understand my words and what I thought to have explained fully You must observe that the tract of land to which you seem to pretend a right, is six times larger than any Seigniory in the Country; You know your relations of Caughnawaga Castle the first in the Country has but two leagues, and I see no reason why you should be so extravagant and foolish in your demand, but retire to night and consider properly let reason be your Guide, I have always done my best as you know to put you to rights when I saw you going wrong, and I hope you will not desire me to ask any thing for you that will make me blush, I will hear to Morrow Morning what you may deliberate upon this Night. —

Chiefs, 2d April 1784. Father we thank you for your good advice last Night we begin to think about the Matter, and the cloud which hung over us seems greatly dispersed, and we shall endeavour consenting to listen to our Words, you we only ask from Island Tarell to River Raisin, and the rest is all we can spare to our Brothers"

Col.l Campbell. Children this will never do I am exceedingly sorry for your unreasonable demand and sticking so wide of the mark, you must only ask moderately and within y Bounds of reason, I again earnestly recommend to you seriously to listen to my words, and to go on with temper, Your Great Father will assist you in distress and does not forget your fidelity, You may rely on his protection, but you are this moment by such extravagant demands going to forfeit his Esteem, go again and consider coolly together and do not forget my words, and what I have already observed to You,

The Indians retired to the Block-house back, and in the afternoon the whole returned and

Chiefs" — Father we will do every thing in our to satisfy you and meet our Great Fathers wishes. — Will You ask him then for us, from Little Point Maline. —

Col.o - Campbell" Children you are still wrong the Town for the habitation of Your Brothers is to be Built near to that Place, and you say you first left below to share Rum"

Chiefs, " Father, we wish them to be some distance from it), we shall go still down and the difference in distance from that Point, to the Traverse, and in lieu of all that we give up now, we shall only ask of our Great Father, A Priest to reside amongst us, — Here they past a handsome Compliment on their Great Father and Sir John Johnson hoped they were not angry with them, should any of their Young men have disobliged Sir John Johnson when he was up. &c &c &c — Col.o

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The Commander — Children I am glad that you are
are a little [illegible] You, but you are still extravagant
and Wrong in the Principal. I cannot ask all that
Ground for You, Because I observe you have still Lands
on the other side besides your Islands where you
plant Your Corn, and in the mean time I hope you
will not desire me to ask for You but from the place
where you refused the distance lower than to what you
call round Island here it was explained to the
Chiefs before the (Deputy Surveyor the distance and
place not Six Miles) and then you will enable
one to open my mouth a little in Your behalf, but
I cannot promise even that same Tract but
conditionally, As to Your asking a Priest you are
not able to Maintain him he would Eat You
up in one Year, and it will take a little time
before you are able to give him a living, on that
subject I recommend to You, Patience.

You'll carry back the Surveyor in one of
Your carryols to go on with the Work, excepting
from the Place Marked B. to A on the
Sketch drawn by the Engineer & Dy Surveyor.

Chiefs. Father you will please to return us Your
Belt, that we may show our people at home
that we have done something, and we
know that if you will but ask for us
our Great Father below will Grant our request
We shall carry Back the Surveyor to
go on with this Work as you have
directed.

It was now that they got
a little Rum to open their Throats &c

The above is wrote as Explained to me by Lieut Colonel Campbell and Mr Laurimier Interp:

(Signed) Dun McDougall
Lt 84th Regt

Substance of the
Proceedings with the
Indians of St. Regis.

2d. April 1784

Lachine Apr.l 7. 1784 — III

Gorah | Shotsitsyowane |

yongweron | a esattogeaghse | tsinaawea | Nongwanigonra | tsi onea |
Wagwaronge | tsini hoyereahattye | ne Gorah | Asharekowa |
Watogea | tsiniyongwanigonghrodea | ne ise Tyotyereaghdon | Entsyaron
Nonwanonghsishon | ichea yongwarhane Neaghsgwayenawase | — 20
nagwagh Shondayangwanigonroghde | Shadehannoron | tsi Dewatenro |
ne kaadi | Wahonni | ise Nyare | Satthondeh | tsineaghshagwayerat
ne Kayadagweniyo | ne Gorah | Asharekowa |

Tyadattekon | —

Tyatgweniyo |
Ne | Gorah | Asharekowa Onea | Agwegon | yongwaghrongen |
tsinisayerea | negeā tho | rogwatthon | Captain Bran | ne kaddit ne — 23
Onea | Shiyongwatthondattye | ne Saweanaogon | Agwagh okne | Shaoriwat
ne tsinisayerea | ne Shondontyereaghte Shadidewadatgea | Ne —
Tyoghtyagi | Aguts 25th 1778 negenne | ne ok enshatsariwayen | ne
tsinaaghsyerat Nayongwanigonghriyo | Agwagh | kaadi | yawetowanea |
Degwanonghweraton | tsiwenegh | Togeaghegeonwe | Sanonghwahdanni
tsina ongwayadawea | ne Mohawkes yonkhiyats | Onea norigea nonwat-
nene | tsinonwe | Naonsayagwattyea | Otyage oghswegea | Dehadiganeret.
Nakni | tsityotyereaghdon | yongwarighwisson | kadaroghgon | Dettyaron
kaadi Waghseghre | Ethoniyawean | noknene | Saadongeagh | geagwitightsi
yehonghteadi | ne Lachine radideron | Toghsatsyongwedat | ayetkrondage

Tyadattekon | ne Gorah | ———

Onea | Satthondatye | tsiniyetsyagwadonghraghseronnyonghs — |
Onea | kaddi | nene | Saweanaogon | Negeane | isea | nethone | Aguts 25th: 78
neok | Dewagadonghwentsyoni | tsinahoten | anktogeaghse | Daeswa=
donghwentsyoni | Onea kaadi | wahi | Saderyendare | tsiniyongwayeri
ne koghserhin | nene | Aonkatsiwa Deyongwadonghwentsyoni | nene | tsinonwe
naonsayagwatyea | nayorighwaghniron | tsi ayagwaweaniyohakge | ne aya
gwahawage ne Saweana | Onea | Sane | disadaditsinigon | Waghsgyon |
nonghwentsya | 7000 Akers | eghnikongeaonghde | Waghsadeweadeghde |
Onea kaadi | wesatogeaghse | nene kayadagweniyo | Deyongwadonghwen-
tsyoni | ichea | ne Syonnheghgon | nonghwentsya |

gea —

Kea kayen | Nonwa | ne Lachine yagweaderon | kadaroghgongh |
Deyagwaganere | ne kaddi | tsiniwa | yongwanadonghgwe | nonghwhentsya +
ne goghserhen | aghsen | Shiyagwerhaghgwe | eghgen nonene, neatsyagwat=
we nonni | ne Mohacks | kowanea | tsiniyongwanadonghgwe | —
nok nonwa | tsi onea | Watyagwadekhasi | Onea | Waghsenadon | tsinigon + 23
Akers 7000 ne | kaadi | Saserighwakaenyon | tsinighsyerha | genne |
Saadonghs | ne ok | Dewakadonghwentsyoni Naonktogeaghse | tsinayanwea |
Nae sewerye adiyo | Nonwa | tsinigon | Waghsenadon | yaghhagwegon +
Deyoyannere | yagwe hwentsya hagwe | tsiyoghsageadayea | aondaghseewa | Nok +
nene | enskattyoghsaronde | kowanea | ayagwatdeweaniyoghste | 20
ichea nene | Sarighwisson | kaweaniyo | Enyagwatsheari ne yoyannere
tsiyoghsaronde | eaghsonni | katthesesonni Degaghsweakarsreaghs | oni |
yongwarhare | kaadi ichea ne enkarighhonni | Enyagyonnhega | 21
yaghhoni | Deyorighwatogea | Athongweadenrhege ne Kaweaniyo | ayonnisse
ayonghwhentsyadegga | Sookaat | honsondeghyaronnongwe | Nokhonine | issi |
nongaadi | yeahonnakerade | yaghteyorighwadogea | tsiniyongwayadaweags
nene tsiniwa | Sanadon yaweghyagh Deyonaktote | —

Agwagh | kaadi | ne Gorah | Wateghsyatsreghde | naonsontighyare |
Tyadattehen | — 25

Negeane | Saadon | kengwideghtsi | Sewaghdeadi Soghsa Tongwedat |
ne okyeterondage | Agwagh eghniyongwanigonghrotea ne kaweaniyo |
neakawisogo yagh tsyoridat gwe | thayodatenre | Saetho | Anyoghkise | Aaghsiron
seniterondak yagh thayagwagweni | Ne kaweani | ne onea Ayagwayena 22
ne Aaghsgwaghyatonghseron | ne onghwhentsya | tsinonwe | neatsyagwa=
tyea | tsi onea | Dayagwaghsaaghte | tsiniyongweron Shegon ensaghshon=
=gwaweanaronga | —

Tyadatehen | Ne Gora | Shotsitsyowanne —
Ethoniyoriwage | Onen kaddi nonwa Wateghsyatoseghte ~~[illegible]~~ onewanangh
Sishon nene Aaghsadaghsonterea aaghsgwayenawase | Ne Wahonni — | 21
Wagonghyatonsenise | Tyotthonsane | Wagerhare | nongwariwa
Thayendanneken | To gaat ayagwagweni 25 nonwaweghnidare | ayagwage
tendi | Etho |
Waatthonnonghweradon Ayawea shennen | Thasonhege |

Gorah
Shotsitsyowanne
Tyoghtyage
John Deserontyon

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

From Capt. Jno. Deserontyon
La Chine 7. Apr. 84
Ab.t their Settlement
near Cataraghkon
& got
Translated

To
Col.l Danl Claus Acommanting —
a Mohawk Chief
at
Montrial

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

Translation of a letter in Mohawk on page 11,
Vol. 4, Claus Papers.

Lachine, April 7th, 1784.

Governor Daniel Claus. We thought we would let you know what is in our mind with regard to what Governor Haldimand has done. Our mind is still set in that you and Sir John Johnson should first to hear us. For we expect you two to help us, for ever since we were children we have been dear friends. Hence you two will hear what we say to the Master, Governor Haldimand.

Brother. Governor Haldimand. You are the Master. We have all heard what you have done here, for Captain Brant was here and told us. As we were hearing your message, it was the very same what you did when first we saw each other at Montreal, August 25th 1778. It appeared then that you had only one object before you, and that was to do what would make our minds good. We thank you exceedingly for the manifestation shown to us that you were sincerely ill in mind over what has happened to us, called Mohawks.

As regards now to where we should settle. Some are looking to Ohsweken, but as for us, right from the first, we have decided to go near 'Cataroqui'. To both moves, you have said, "Let it be done". You have also stated that those who are at Lachine should move away this spring, and let no one be left behind.

Brother, the Governor. You are now hearing what is in our mind that is grateful. With regard to your words given us in August 25th 1778- "All I want to know is what to do to please you". You must by now know what we did last mid-winter namely, that our utmost desire is that we have your word stating that our mastership be strong over the land upon which we will settle. Although you have already told us the size of the land- 7,000 acres, you have spared to give us, we desire to make our livelihood off the land, With regard to those of us staying at Lachine, looking to move to Cataroqui we should like to remind you what we said last mid-winter about larger tract of land we had in mind so that there we Three Mohawk bands could be gathered as one. Now that we have seperated, you have fixed the area to 7000 acres. Will you reconsider that in accordance with what you used to say to us- "All I want to know is what to do to please you". For the size of the land you give us is not enough. The land is not all good. We were wishing the tract to commence at the prairie (meadow) and thence to the big bay all in our own right. This would be in keeping with your good decision to give to us to our pleasing. At the bay you will erect a grist-mill and a saw mill, depending on these we hope, to make our living. There is no gainsaying, and may the mercy of God be vouchsafed to us, that the land may long remain for us, that the people may increase in numbers, and that those who have gone to other places something may overtake them and us, for there is no knowing, and come back to us, the size of the tract of land you have fixed, has not enough room. It is imperative, Governor, that you reconsider the matter of increasing the area of the land.

Brother. With regard to what you say: "Move away this spring and not one be left behind". That is our intention, to move away as soon as the ice is gone. Not one shall be left here, even were you to ask us to say on.

We want to receive the Deed from you for the land you gave us, the land where we shall dwell. We have again emptied our thoughts through words which has come to your hearing.

Brother, Governor Daniel Claus. This is all now for you and Sir John to think it over, and that you will help us much by adding more to what we have said. I appeal to you, although, I am always hoping that our affairs will be done through you and 'Tha yen da né gea' (Capt. Jos.Brant)

If we can, we will move away on the 25th of the present month. That's all.

I salute you; may you be in good health.

John Deserentyon

Governor, 'Sho tsi tsyo wa ne
(Daniel Claus) Montreal.

Vol. 4. 'Claus Papers'

Lachine, April 7th 1784.

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at

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If we can, we will move away on the 25th of the present month. That's all.

I salute you; may you be in good health

John Deserontyon

Governor, 'Sho tsi tsyo wa ne'
(Daniel Claus)
Montreal.

Lachine Apr.le 7. 1784 — 111

Gorah | Shotsitsyowane |

yongwiron | aesattogeaghse tsinaawea | Nongwanigonra tsi onea |
Wagwaronge | tsini hoyereahattye | Ne Gorah | Asharekowa |
Watogea | tsiniyongwanigonghrodea | ne ise Tyotyereaghdon Entsyaronge
Nonwanonghsishon | ichea yongwarhare Neaghsgwayenawase | 20
nagwagh | Shondayangwanigonroghde | Shadekannoron | tsi Dewatenro |
ne kaadi | Wahonni | ise | Nyare | Satthondek | tsineaghshagwayerat
ne Kayadagweniyo | ne | Gorah | Asharekowa |

Tyadattekon | —

Ne | Gorah | Asharekowa | tyatgweniyo | Onea | Agwegon | yongwaghrongen | 22
tsinisayerea | ne gea tho | rogwatthon | Captain Bran | ne kaddit ne —
Onea | Shiyongwatthondattye | ne Saweanaogon | Agwagh | okne | Shaoriwat
ne tsinisayerea | ne Shondontyereaghte Shadidewadatgea | ne —
Tyoghtyagi | Aguts 25th 1778 ne genne | ne ok enshatsariwayen | ne
tsinaaghsyerat Nayongwanigonghriyo | Agwagh | kaadi | yawetowanea | 23
Degwanonghweraton | tsiwenigh | Togeaghege | onwe | Sanonghwakdanni 23
tsina ongwayadawea | ne Mohawkes | yonkhiyats | Onea nongea nonwa-
nene | tsinonwe | Naonsayagwattyea Otyage oghswegea | Dehadiganere-
nokni tsityotyereaghdon yongwarighwisson kadaroghgon Dettyaron 20
kaadi Waghseghre Ethoniyawean | nok nene Saadongeagh | geagwitightsi
yehonghkeadi | ne Lachine radideron | Toghsatsyongwedat | ayetsrondage

Tyadattekon | ne Gorah | —— x

Onea | Satthondatye | tsiniyetsyagwadonghraghseronnyonghs — |
Onea | kaddi | nene | Saweanaogon Negeane isea nethone Aguts 25th: 1778
neok | Dewagadonghwentsyoni tsinahoten ankTogeaghse | Daesewa-
donghwentsyoni | Onea kaadi wahi Saderyendare tsiniyongwayere
ne koghserhin | nene Aonkatsiwa Deyongwadonghwentsyoni nene tsinonwe
naonsayagwatyea nayorighwaghniron tsi ayagwaweaniyohakge ne aya- 20
gwakawage ne Saweana | Onea Sane disadadi tsinigon Waghsgyon
nonghwentsya | 7000 Akers eghnikongea onghde | Waghsadeweadeghde |
Onea kaadi wesatogeaghse nene kayadagweniyo Deyongwadonghwen-
tsyoni | ichea | ne Syonnkeghgon | nonghweantsya —

gea ——

12 = kea kayen | Nonwa | ne Lachine yagweaderon | kadaroghgongh |
Deyagwaganere | ne kaddi | Tsiniwa | yongwanadonghgwe | nonghwhentsya
ne goghserhen | Aghsen | Shiyagwerhaghgwe | eghgennonne, neatsyaguat=
wenonni | ne Mohacks | kowanea | Tsiniyongwanadonghgwe | —
nohnonwa | tsi onea | Watyagwadikhasi | Onea | Waghsenadon | Tsinigon — 23
Akers 7000 ne | kaadi | Saserighwakaenyon | Tsinighoyerha | genne
Saadonghs | ne ok | Dewakadonghwentsyoni Naonktogeaghse | Tsinayawea |
Nae sewerye adiyo | Nonwa | Tsinigon | Waghsenadon | yaghtagwegon =
Deyoyannere | ayagwehwentsyahagwe | Tsiyoghsageadayea | a'ondaghsewea | Nok =
nene | enskattyoghsaronde | kowanea | ayagwatewenaniyoghste | . — 21
ichea nene | Sarighwisson | kaweaniyo Enyagwatsheari ne yoyannere
Tsiyoghsaronde | eaghsonni | katthesero nni Degaghsweakarareaghs | oni |
yongwarhare | kaadi ichea ne enkarighhonni | Enyagyonnhega | 2
yaghhoni | Deyorighwatogea | Ashongweadenrhege ne Kaweaniyoyo | ayonnisse
ayonghwhentsyadegge | Sookaat | Aonsondeghyaronnongwe | Nokhonine | isse
nongaadi yeahonnakerade | yaghteyorighwadogea | Tsiniyongwayadaweagg
nene Tsiniwa Sanadon yaweghyagh Deyonaktote | —

Agwagh | kaadi | ne Gorah | Watigheyatereghde | naonsontighyon |
Syadatthehen | —

ne geani | Saadon | kengwideghtsi | Sewaghdeadi Soghsa Tongweadat |
okyeterondage | Agwagh eghniyongwanigonghrotea ne kaweaniyo
neakawisogo yagh tsyoridatgwe | Thayodatenre Saetho | Anyoghise | Aaghsiron
Seniterondak yagh thayagwagweni ne kaweani | ne Onea Ayagwayena 2
ne Aaghsgwaghyatonghseron | ne onghwhentsya | Tsinonwe | neatsyagwa=
tyea | tsi onea | Dayagwaghsaaghte | Tsiniyongweron Shegon enseghshon=
=gwaweanaronge | —

Syadatehen | ne Gora | Shotsitsyowanne —
Ethoniyoriwage | Onen kaddi nonwa Watighsyatoreghte oni onweasongh
Sishon nene Aaghsadaghsonterea aaghsgwayenawase | ne Wahonni— 2
Wagonghyatonsenise | Syotthonsane Wagerhare | nongwariwa
Thayendanneken | Sogaat ayagwagweni 25 nonwaweghnidare | ayagwage
tendi | Etho |
Waatthonnonghweradon Ayawea | Skinnen Shasonkege |

Gorah —
John Deserontyon —
Shotsitsyowanne
Syoghtyage

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

From Captn. Jno. Deseronto
La Chine 7 Apr. 84
Abt. their settlement
near Cataraghkoui

8gt

Translated

To

Col. Dan Claus A commanting
a Mohawks Chief
at
Montrial

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

Montreal April 7th 1784

My dear friend

I find by the Express from Niagara that our messengers has return'd to Niagara from General Schuyler, & they behave'd themselves all together in most shamefull manner disgrace to the five nations to the last degree, by which made Schuyler as saucy as very devil which you will finded in his Speeches to the five nations, & he ~~his~~ is now trying all he can to disunite us, both by threatenings & Promising, which Causes I find the five nations are at present in some confusions Amongst them, and wants me there very much as I told you in my last letter to you. when I recieved the message yesterday I wanted to go off from this immediately to Niagara by land but some my friends here Advised me to wait few days longer, as the river appears to brake up soon. I shall now to stay till you will please to answer me this letter — I believe the Mericans means to treat us in treacherous maner for they taking every advantage Against us they gave us reasonable words at first whilts we was warm & Our hatchet in our hands since our young men got cool & out of notion of the war, than they begin to threaten us, both our lives & lands. & because they have got some our people to their side by deceiving of them. I expected it would be the case, when the our messengers was detain'd Amongst them to contrive to dis unite us, I did prepared Against it as well as I could before I came a way. It was also the reason I was so Earnestly intreat'd the General to consider & sent of whatever goods he had to the

To
Major Mathews

five nations & some mony to the Mohawks & Oughquag the Account the losses the late war, because I know it is only way to strengthen the minds of them before that meeting takis place, so if we the five nations must go to distruction I am clear, for you see I did all I could to provented. thoug you may think other ways. Sir it most broke my heart when I received the letters yesterday for the foolishness of our chiefs I mean the messengers, & it is to much the case in general among the chiefs they will not see their own intrest they wont see any distance before them. I saw my dearest friends kill'd both sides of me the late war never did me made so painfull as it did at this time. After our friend the English left us in the lurch, still our own chief should make the matter worse. I do sure you I begin to pripore my deagh song for vexation will lead m to rashness. I hope in god the General would not forget my wife & relations in case accident happen me. Sir I am sorry to ask you the same questions but distres leads me to it, it is whether there is still little help reserved for us in case we was forced to fight the Cruel & Spitefull Enimeis or whether its intirely non. if there is any left tell me in what manner or how. Notwithstanding my distrest situation on account of the many circumstances already mention'd, yet my thoughts are continually Employ'd about the means of promoting the good of the five nations consistantly with the Kings service & I am of opinion that every means should be used to keep the five nations collec I should submit to his Excellencys consideration whe the building a small Church & Establishing a school= master

To
Major Mathews —

with a fixed sallary to instruct the Children in principles of religion as well as loyalty would not be of use, from my own knowledge of the desposition of the five nations I am sure they woud consider such an institution as the strongest proof of goverments attention to them, but should the General Object to it on account of the Expence I hope he would give us leave to ask the Contributions of such as should be desposed to promote the interests of Religion, & from your goodness of heart & your attentions to us we should in that case entreat your friendly assistance at Quebec, you please to let me have the Generals sentiments on this head, I should have applied to the General myself when I was below but I was unwilling to increase the Number of due requests which was allready too great. I hope you will Excuse me of giving you this trouble to read my sivage ~~letter~~ I am your most

Humble servant

Jos: Brant

To

Major Mathews

N, B Capt David Hill sents his love to you he is very angry about Johns behaviour, but he intents to do the same as I mean to do, my self is to follow the generals advice in all occasions — J: B

1784

From
Captain Joseph Brant
of the 7th April Rd. 10th.

flour or Rice, 3/4 lb of salt or 1 lb of fresh Beef, Pork or fish, 1 Gill of vinegar and half a Gill of Salt, and with Cloathing in the following proportions p^r man, viz: Once in two years with a Cloth Coat, waistcoat and overalls, and with a linnen frock, 2 p^r of linnen overalls, 2 leathern stocks and 1 Hatt yearly.

Resolved, That the men so raised be commanded by officers who have continued in the service of the United States to the close of the late war, who shall be selected by Congress from the lines of the respective States, in proportion to the quotas of men affixed by these Resolutions.

Resolved, That the infantry so raised be distributed in Garrisons at the different Posts in manner following viz:

	Col^o	Lieut. Col^o	Maj^r	Cap^t	Lieu^t	Ensign	Surg^n	Mate	Serj^t	D. & F.	R. & F.
North End of Lake Champlain	--	--	--	1	1	1	--	--	4	2	50
Niagara	1	--	1	2	2	2	1	1	8	4	100
Oswego and Fort Erie	--	--	--	1	1	1	--	--	4	2	50
Detroit	--	1	--	2	2	2	--	1	8	4	100
Michilimackinac and the carrying place at the west End of Lake Superior	--	1	1	2	2	2	--	1	8	4	100
Mouth of Scioto and the carrying place between Scioto and Sandusky	--	1	--	2	2	2	--	1	8	4	100
Rapids and Mouth of the Ohio, and at the Mouth of Illinois River	--	--	1	2	2	2	--	1	8	4	100
	1	3	3	12	12	12	1	5	44 [48]	24	600

Resolved, That the Artillery be proportioned to the different Posts in such manner as the Commanding officer of the United States shall judge most expedient.[1]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present as yesterday.

According to order, Congress proceeded to the election of another commissioner, in addition to those appointed on the 4th of March last, to negotiate with the Indians; and, the ballots being taken, Mr. Philip Schuyler was elected.

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[1] This report, in the writing of John Francis Mercer, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 167, folio 383. The indorsement states that it was delivered this day, entered and read, and "Monday April 12, 1784, assigned for consideration."

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina;

The delegates for the state of New Jersey laid before Congress an act passed by the legislature of that State the 17 June, 1783, entitled "An Act to authorise the delegates representing this State in the Congress of the United States, to ratify an Alteration in one of the Articles of the Confederation," in the following words:

Whereas it has been recommended by Congress to the several states in Union, to authorise their respective delegates to subscribe and ratify an Alteration in the eighth of the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union; and as the reasons urged by Congress appear to make the alteration recommended necessary; therefore,

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the council and general Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That so much of the eighth of the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, between the thirteen states of America, as is contained in the words following, to wit: "All charges of war, and all other expences that shall be incurred for the common defence or general welfare, and allowed by the United States in Congress assembled, shall be defrayed out of a common treasury, which shall be supplied by the several states, in proportion to the value of all land within each State, granted to or surveyed for any person as such land and the buildings and improvements thereon, shall be estimated according to such mode as the United States in Congress assembled, shall, from time to time, direct and appoint," shall be, and the same is hereby revoked and made void, so far as the same extended to this State.

2. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the delegates representing this State in the Congress of the United States, and they are hereby required to subscribe and ratify the following as part of the said instrument of Union, and in place of the

The United States in Congreſs Aſsembled

To all who shall see these Preſents send Greeting

Whereas we have judged it proper that one or more Convention or Conventions be held with the Indians residing within the boundaries of the United States of America in the northern and middle departments, comprehending the whole of the Indians known by the names of the Six Nations and all to the northward and westward of them and as far South as the Cherokees exclusive for the purpoſes of receiving them into the favour and protection of the United States and of establishing boundary lines of property for separating and dividing the settlements of the Citizens of the United States of America from the Indian villages and hunting grounds and thereby extinguishing as far as poſsible all occasion of future animosities disquiet and vexation; And whereas by our Letters patent under the Seal of the United States and bearing date the 12th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty four we nominated, constituted and appointed our trusty and beloved George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler and Stephen Higgenson our Commiſsioners giving and granting to them and to any three of them full power and authority for us and in our name to confer, treat, agree and conclude with the said Indians or with any nation or tribe of Indians within the boundaries of the United States or bordering thereon in the northern and middle departments aforesaid of and concerning the establishment of peace with the said Indians, extinguishing their claims and settling boundaries between them and the Citizens of the United States in as ample form and with the same effect as if we were personally present and acted therein, And Whereas we have thought proper and have resolved that another Commiſsioner be appointed in addition to those nominated, constituted and appointed as aforesaid Now therefore Know Ye that we reposing special trust and confidence in the Integrity, Prudence and Ability of our trusty and beloved Philip Schuyler have nominated, constituted and appointed and by these presents do nominate, constitute and appoint him the said Philip Schuyler our Commiſsioner in addition to our Commiſsioners as aforesaid, giving and granting to them the said George Rogers Clarke, Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Greene, Richard Butler, Stephen Higgenson and Philip Schuyler and to any three or more of them full power and authority for us and in our name to confer, treat, agree and conclude with the said Indians or with any nation or tribe of Indians within the boundaries of the United States or bordering thereon in the northern & middle

Thomas Mifflin

Cha Thomson secy

SCHUYLER PAPERS.

Departments aforesaid of and concerning the establishment of peace with the ſaid Indians, the extinguishing their claims and ſettling boundaries between them and the Citizens of [illegible] United States in as ample form and with the ſame effect as if we were personally present and acted therein; hereby promising to hold valid and to fulfil and execute whatever ſhall be agreed upon concluded and ſigned by our said Commiſsioners or any three or more of them.

In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of the United States of America to be hereunto affixed Witneſs His Excellency Thomas Mifflin President of the United States in Congreſs Aſsembled this Eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand ſeven hundred and Eighty [illegible] and of our Sovereignty and Independence the Eighth

Sachems and Warriors of the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas.

Attend

I am appointed, as Governor of this State to preside at a board of Commissioners instituted for the purpose of conferring with you, in order to accomodate the differences which have unhappily arisen between you and us in the course of the late War between Great Britain and America. This appointment has been made expressly least you should object to the impropriety of treating with any other than those whom you have always untill the late troubles considered as your immediate brethren; and who have always untill then considered you as such, and who now wish to renew the antient covenant which subsisted between us. — In order therefore to promote this salutary business, which is the object of this message, it appears to us necessary that the path of Communication between you and us, should be immediately opened, and we do accordingly hereby remove all the obstacles which lay in it, and pluck up by the roots, all the briars and brambles with which it is overgrown; that we may freely pass and repass, to and from each other.

a String of six Rows

Sachems and Warriors aforesaid.

We are persuaded, from the communication made by General Schuyler, that you are heartily inclined to renew that antient friendship, which heretofore subsisted between you and us, and between your forefathers and ours, that your intentions are honest, generous, and sincere. — we are glad to hear it because we wish that all animosity should be buried in total oblivion, and a future friendly intercourse should prevail between us, to the benefit of both. — to this end we now invite you to meet us in Council at the German flats, where you will also find the Oneidas and Tuscaroras, and we hope all differences and animosities will be amicably adjusted, and that we may part from each other reconciled brethren. —

We do not fix on a day for the meeting as your distance and other circumstances might render it impossible or very inconvenient for you then to attend, but we wish that you should be at the appointed place as early in the next month as you can; you will probably be able to determine on the precise time, which the bearer is with you, and inform us thereof by him — if not, it is our desire that you will dispatch runners to us with a meſsage written in English, previous to your setting out, that no unneceſsary delays may intervene in a buſineſs so important to both — direct your Letter to Henry Glen at Schenectady, who will immediately give me and the other Commiſsioners notice when to attend —

a Large white belt —

Sachems and Warriors

We have sent Mr. Peter Rychman with this Meſsage, because many of you are well acquainted with him, and we trust that you will afford him, all the aſsistance in your power on his return to us. If sickneſs or any accident should prevent his return, we desire you to send your Answer by those who accompany him; or by meſsingers of your own

a String

(Signed) Geo: Clinton

City of New York
April 12th 1784 —

(128)

Cy of Governor Geo: Clinton's
Speech to the Six Nations
at the City of New York
April 17th 17[illegible] —

(150)

Head Quarters Quebec
15th April 1784

Sir

Since my last letter to you I have Considered that part of yours concerning the Claims of the St Regis Indians together with the Lieut. Colonel Campbell's & the minutes of his proceedings with the Indians, from which you would Judge their Reasons for not parting with the Land in Question and that notwithstanding the Colonel's repeated remonstrances they persist in contending for the line between the letters A and B marked in the sketch accompanying the minutes in preference to any Pecuniary Compensation.

Circumstanced as we are at Present with the Indians in general, and immediately Preceding the great meeting they are to have with the Commissioners from Congress, I think it would be unsafe to do any thing in the matter that might be interpreted injurious to the Indians, I therefore think it will be most prudent to let them continue in possess of the Quantity of Land Specified in your lette that is from the Western boundary of the Secon Township to the dotted line between the River Traverse and Pointe Maligne (which as I understand will not interfere with the Town Plot, but it must not be understood in any other light than as an indulgence and during the Kings pleasure, no part of it ever having been granted to them as Property. You will please to communicate my intentions to Colonel Campbell to whom I shall also write upon the subject.

I am

Sir

Your most Obedient and

Humble Servant

Sign'd Fred^d Haldimand

Sir John Johnson Bar^t.

Quebec 15th April 1784

From

Genl Haldimand

in [illegible] the

St Regis Indians

(Copy) Head Quarters 15th April 1784

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the Eighth Instant Accompanied with the Minutes of your Proceedings with the St. Regis Indians upon their Claim of a Tract of Land opposite to their Village, and a Sketch thereof — I am sorry to find that Notwithstanding the Pains you have taken these People are Obstinate in Preserving a Certain part of that Tract, as it will certainly be attended with inconvenience to the Settlers, but having gone so far with them as to treat upon the Matter, I think it would be Imprudent, in the Present Situation of Indian Affairs, to deprive them intirely of Land Which they have so long been Allowed to Consider as their own. — Sir John Johnson Represents however that it will be Necessary to fix their lower Boundary at the Western line of the 2d Township about two Miles higher than the Letter A. (to avoid Interfering with the Spot intended for the Town) from thence to the dotted line between the River Traverse and Point Maline as Marked in the Sketch, I shall permit them to keep for the use of their Village, but they must be made fully to understand and Consider this as an Indulgence during the Kings Pleasure, no part of it ever having been Granted to them — And you will Represent to them the great Inconvenience to which I subject the Loyalists & Warriors, I mean to settle there, merely

to

accommodate them who in proportion to their Numbers will Still have a Larger Quantity of Land, and Much more than they can have use for. —

I am with great Regard
Sir, Your Most Obedient
And Most Humble Servant

Colonel Campbell — (Signed) Fredk Haldimand

Head Quarters 15: April 1784
from Genl. Haldimand to
Colonel Campbell —

The Committee [Mr. Hugh Williamson, Mr. Edward Hand and Mr. David Howell] to whom was refered the memorial of M^{r} Jacob Weiss, j^{r}, stating that while he was Deputy Quarter Master General he was appointed to take the charge of receiving and delivering the Quarter Master's stores in Camp, and was afterwards appointed to the charge of issuing cloathing to many persons employed in the quarter master's Department and in consequence of having discharged those duties requesting that other or greater pay may be allowed him than what he was entitled to as Deputy Quarter Master General submit the following resolve.

That the request of the Memorialist cannot be granted.[1]

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, eleven states as yesterday.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [David] Howell, to whom was referred a motion of Mr. [Edward] Hand,

Resolved, That the commissioners for treating with the Indian nations be informed that as Congress are desirous of having that important business effected with the utmost dispatch and at as little expence as possible, the fifth article of their instructions so far as it enjoins the holding of separate and distinct treaties with the several nations is dispensed with, and that they the said commissioners are hereby authorised to treat with the said several nations of Indians collectively or at different times and places as they shall find most conducive to the Interest of the United States.[2]

The committee, consisting of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Arthur] Lee and Mr. [Jacob] Read, to whom was referred a letter of the 7, from the hon^{ble}. the minister plenipotentiary of France, relative to the late Baron de Kalb, and Colonel Radiere, and to Lieutenant-Colonels Fleury and Gimat, having reported thereon;

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 527. The indorsement states that it was read on this day. See *ante*, March 27, 1784.

[2] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 217.

This resolution was also entered in the manuscript Secret (Domestic) Journal.

The Committee [Mr. Hugh Williamson, Mr. Arthur Lee and Mr. Jacob Read] to whom was referred a letter of the 7th Inst. from the Minister of France to the President of Congress submit the following Resolve,

That the acts of the 22nd Jany. and the 3rd of February last in favour of certain foreign officers be extended to Lieut. Col. Fleury and Gimat, and that the Superintendant of Finance cause the accounts of the Baron de Kalb who was killed in the service of the U. S. and those of Col. Radier who dyed in their service to be settled with all convenient despatch.[1]

Resolved, That the said report be referred to the Superintendant of finance to take order.

The minister plenipotentiary of France, having on the 6th transmitted to Congress a Letter, dated 13th August, 1783, from His Most Christian Majesty, in answer to their Letter of the 14th June, 1779, and accompanied the same with a Memorial informing Congress, that the portraits of the King and Queen are arrived at Philadelphia; that he has orders to present them to this assembly, and has taken the measures necessary for their safe keeping until Congress shall be ready to receive them; the said letter and memorial were referred to the consideration of a Committee.[2]

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson and Mr. [Jacob] Read, to whom were referred a letter of the 13 of August, from his

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 25, II, folio 359.

[2] This paragraph was entered only in the manuscript Secret Journal, Foreign Affairs.

Most Christian Majesty, and a memorial from the hon^{ble}. the minister plenipotentiary of France;

Resolved, That the following letter be signed by the President, in behalf of the United States in Congress assembled, and transmitted to his Most Christian Majesty, in answer to his letter accompanying the portraits of his Majesty and of his royal Consort, which he has been pleased to present to Congress.

~~Very~~ Great, faithful and ~~most~~ beloved Friend and Ally:

Your Majesty's letter of the 13 of August last has been received by the United States in Congress assembled with a degree of satisfaction and pleasure, which those only can conceive who to the highest sentiments of respect unite feelings of the most affectionate friendship.

The portraits of your Majesty and of your royal Consort having arrived at Philadelphia, have been carefully preserved by your faithful Minister, the Chevalier de la Luzerne, whose attention on this as on all other occasions merits the ~~particular~~ acknowledgments of Congress.

These lively ~~emblems~~ representations of our ~~best~~ august and most beloved friends will ~~have the most honorable place~~ be placed in our Council Chamber and can never fail of exciting in the mind of every ~~patriotic~~ American an admiration of ~~and the warmest desire of imitating~~ the distinguished virtues and accomplishments of the royal originals.

We beseech the Supreme Ruler of the Universe constantly to keep ~~you both~~ your Majesty and your royal Consort in his holy protection and ~~long~~ to render the blessings of your ~~Majesty's~~ administration as extensive as the objects of your Majesty's benevolent principles.

Done at Annapolis in the State of Maryland this 16 day of April, 1784, by the United States in Congress assembled.

YOUR FAITHFUL FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

Resolved, That the President inform the honorable the minister of France, that Congress have a due sense of the care which he has taken for preserving the portraits, and are desirous that they may continue in his possession until proper places can be provided for them.

That a letter be addressed by the President to the Supreme executives of the several states, informing them of the intelligence communicated by the Minister of France, to wit, "That his most Christian Majesty has determined that L'Orient shall be a free port, and although the edict is not published, may be so considered by the citizens of the United States. And that the merchants of the United States likewise enjoy the liberty of frequenting the ports of Marseilles and Dunkirk, and participate, as other nations, [in] the franchises and privileges of these two places."

That the minister of France, in answer to his letter of the 9 instant, requesting to know what measures had been taken by the United States, relative to the payments of the portions of the principal and interest of the loan of eighteen million livres, furnished by his Most Christian Majesty, and also of five million florins supplied in Holland, and guaranteed by his Majesty, be informed, that as all the legislatures have not yet passed on the recommendations of Congress of the 18 April, 1783, for establishing permanent funds, supplementary requisitions on the states will be adopted to provide for the interest of the loans aforesaid for the present year, and that the greatest care will be taken by subsequent measures for the punctual payment of the principal and interest, as they may respectively become due, according to the terms of the several contracts.[1]

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[1] The report and draft of the letter, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 25, II, folio 355. The words lined out are so in the report and not in the Journal. The report was entered also in the Secret Journal, Foreign Affairs.

On a report from the late Secretary at War, to whom was referred a petition from several officers of the Pensylvania line;

Some of the officers of the Pennsylvania line who have returned from South Carolina at their own expence, have been compensated. I see no reason why Col. Craig and others whose petition has been referred to me should be deprived of that benefit.

I therefore submit to the consideration of Congress the propriety of passing the following resolve—

Resolved, That the Secretary in the War Office be, and he is hereby directed to issue warrants on the paymaster general, in favor of Colonel Craig, Lieutenant Stricker, Captain Seely, Lieutenant Thornbury and Captain Claypoole, for a like sum that has been allowed to other officers of the Pensylvania line, to refund their expences in returning from South Carolina.[1]

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, Mr. [George] Partridge and Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase, to whom was referred a memorial of Robert Patton;

The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Robert Patten for an encrease of his wages as Doorkeeper, Report.

'*Resolved*, That the sum of ten dollars per month be allowed to Robert Patton, messenger, in addition to his salary, from the 12 of November last, until the ~~first of April~~ 26 day of May next.[2]

The committee, consisting of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [George] Partridge and Mr. [Arthur] Lee, to whom was referred a letter of February 5, from Brigadier General Hazen, having reported,

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[1] This report, in the form of a letter from Benjamin Lincoln, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 149, III, folio 249.

[2] This report, in the writing of Samuel Hardy, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, V, folio 49. The words lined out are so in the report and not in the Journal. Patton's memorial is in No. 41, VIII, folio 120.

The Committee to whom was referred a letter from Brig^r General Hazen of the 5th Feby. to the President of Congress alledging that for some time he had the command, and has been subject to the expence of a Brig^r Gen^l and requesting that in settling his accts. he may be allowed the emoluments or pay of a Brig^r Genl. in the line, beg leave to report,

That by a resolution of Congress on the 29th of June, 1781, General Hazen obtained the rank of Brigadier General by Brevet, which rank he continued to hold when the late reductions were made in the Army.

That on the 10th of September, 1783, Congress were pleased to direct that the Paymaster General be informed that Brevet Commissions do not entitle to pay or emoluments unless the same be expressed in the Resolution granting such commission, which instruction seems to be in perfect conformity with a former act of the 30th of April, 1778.

The Committee further observe, that by an act of the 15th of Dec., 1781, ~~major Edward Giles, a brevet officer,~~ a particular officer who was a Major by Brevet was allowed the pay and subsistence of a Major while in actual service, on which your Committee submit the following resolve.

"That in settling the accounts of Brigadier General Moses Hazen, he be allowed the pay and subsistance of a brigadier general in the line of the army, so long as he may have commanded a brigade, and not longer."[1]

A motion was made by Mr. [George] Partridge, seconded by Mr. [Richard] Beresford, to strike out "subsistance," and in lieu thereof insert "emoluments;" and to strike out what follows "brigadier general," and in lieu thereof insert, "from the date of his brevet commission as brigadier:" And on the question to agree to this amendment, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson,

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, III, folio 105.

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	no
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	no	no
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Dick,	no	*
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	no	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
Stone,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	no	no
Spaight,	no	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So the question was lost.

The question being then put, to agree to the report of the committee, was also lost.

[Motion of Mr. Hugh Williamson]

That the amount of subsistence continued to be advanced to certain Canadian officers in consequence of the Act of the 9th of August last after the reduction of the Corps to which they respectively belonged shall be passed to their debit in settling their amount of pay or half pay, and that no farther advances be made to any officer above the rank of a Captain.[1]

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[1] This motion, undated, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 36, IV, folio 557.

On this day, as the indorsement states, was read a letter, dated March 30, 1784, from the Governor of Massachusetts and referred to Mr. [John] Beatty, Mr. [Jacob] Read and Mr. [Edward] Hand. It is in No. 65, II, folio 243. Committee Book, No. 186, says that the committee reported May 11. See *post,* May 17, the list of reports to be referred to the Committee of the States.

the Committee consisting of Mr. Mr. Hand Mr. Williamson & Mr. Howell to whom was referred a motion of Mr. Hand ~~beg~~ having considered the same beg leave to offer the following resolve

Resolved, that the Commissioners for treating with the Indian Nations be informed that as Congress are desirous of having that important business effected with the utmost dispatch & at as little expence as possible, the fifth Article of their instructions so far as it injoins the holding of separate & distinct treaties ~~with~~ with the several Nations, is dispensed with, & that they the sd Commissioners are hereby authorised to treat with the said several nations of Indians collectively or at different times & places as they shall find most conducive to the Interest of the U. S.

Report of Mr Hand
Mr Williamson
Mr Howell
On the 5 art. Instructions
paſsed 16 April 1784
to Comm^{rs} treating with Indians

Montreal 19th April 1784

Sir

I am now to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Excellency's letters of the 12th and 15th Instant — Sensible that no time was lost by your Excellency in representing the Situation of the Indians in consequence of the Provisional Treaty, and of your endeavours to procure and to afford them every relief in your power, I took every opportunity to convince them of it, — and I shall not fail to Communicate to them, through Joseph, every thing Recommended and offered to promote their Peace and happiness —

Joseph very prudently declined delivering the Message from the Six Nations to the Canada Indians, until I received your Excellency's Answer on the Subject, at the same time that

His Excellency General Haldimand

he

thinks your Excellencys reasons for not approving of Deputies being sent from their People, he is of opinion that three or four good Men, such as he can point out to represent the Seven Nations of Canada, would give their Confederacy a greater Consequence at the intended Meeting, Without Injuring our Interest — he intends leaving this for La Chine to Morrow —

Colonel Campbell is of Opinion that if the Space between the Boundary line ~~and~~ the Lake and Mr. Lobinieres Seigniory Would admit of as large a Tract being granted to them as they Want on the Opposite Side, that they might be prevailed upon to relinquish the greater part, if not the Whole, of What they Claim — could they even be Satisfied with the Tract from the Western Boundary of the Second Township to the River Traverse, it Would place the Town Plotten, or near the Centre of the third Township, Commencing from the Above Mentioned River, Which, I take to be about four or five Miles from the Centre of the Town Plott as laid down on the Map — Colonel Campbell proposes going up to see them again on this business immediately after I receive your Excellencys answer —

The Men in general begin to fear it will be very late before the land is divided and ready for them to begin upon, not one Township being yet laid out in Lotts —

The Officers here of the Indian Department and many others from the same part of the Country with the Officers and Men of my Regiment, are very desirous to settle with or near them, and wish to fix themselves somewhere in time to do something before it is too late. —

I have the honor to be
with great Respect
Sir your Excellencys
Most Obedient and
Most Humble Servant
John Johnson

From Δ 1784.
Sir John Johnson
19th April Recd 22—

Montreal April 21st, 84

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My dear friend

I had the pleasure to receive your kind letter the 12th inst. Which I thank you very much for it, for it gave me in most clear and fullest satisfaction in every particular part the business which concerns one at the present situation of the five nat's and as well as my own, I therefore give my most sincere thanks to his Excellency General Haldimand for all his goodness & forwardness to promote the happiness of my countrimen and particular to my self. Sir the long letter you wrote me sufficient itself for me to make my mind easy & satisfied. But besides that you was pleased to Answer my letter in every part and in the clearest manner, for which I am very happy at it, for you gave me very fair opportunity

To
Major Mathews —

if I will act a like an honest fellow for the
interest of the public, because I understand
clear in your Side in every respect, I mean about
our setting peace with the Rebels, & other
affairs, and some private ones you know.
you and I Our hearts are open Since a long
while I hope we shall continue to be so. but
dont mind the long wing'd birds as you call'd,
you know those birds are willfull self interest.
as my own part I can say this I have tried
all I could to be true to my poor foolish countrymen
the six nation & other engagements. I am
determin'd to be so to the last & nothing can
entice me other ways, Eaven dangeis it self shall
not. As we say Our hearts open towards each other
in every business, but dont be out of patience
when I Speak too plain to you, some times.
Capt. David and my self have been very happy
whilst we was here & Quebec the usage we
have met with owing entirely the Generals
goodness

To
Major Mathews

& yourself, We give our best compliments
to the General & my friend, Col.^e Hope &
Major Lernoult & Governor Hamelton

Dear Sir I am your most
Humble Serv.^t
Jos, Brant

To
Major Mathews

N, B, We shall sett off from this today to
Lachine from there shall go of immediately

[Report on M^r Halsted's petition by M^r Roger Sherman, M^r John Beatty, M^r Samuel Dick.]

The Committee consisting of ——— to whom was referred the petition and memorial of John Halsted, late Deputy Commy. Genl. in Canada, have agreed to the following report.

That Congress by their Act of the 1st of October, 1783, have directed the Commissioner of Accounts for the Commissary's Department, upon what principles the Accounts of M^r Halsted shall be settled; but he not having submitted the whole of his accounts for purchases of provisions in Canada and the amount of the debts he has contracted there on behalf of the United States to the proper officer appointed to liquidate the same; Congress cannot consistently at this time take any measures for the payment thereof.

That so much of his petition as relates to the payment of a ballance due on a liquidated Account be referred to the Superintendant of Finance to take such order thereon as the circumstances of the case may require and the state of the finances will admit.[1]

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

On motion of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [David] Howell,

Resolved, That to-morrow be assigned for electing a commissioner to negotiate with the Indians, in the room of Mr. Stephen Higgenson, who has declined that office.

On motion of Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Edward] Hand,

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[1] This report, in the writing of John Beatty, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, III, folio 15. The indorsement states that it was read on this day and on March 24, 1785, referred to Mr. [William] Ellery, Mr. [John] Bull, and Mr. [Samuel] Holten.

Resolved, That to-morrow be assigned for electing a commissioner to negotiate with the Indians, in the room of Mr. Nathaniel Greene, who has declined that office.

Congress resumed the consideration of the report of a committee, on a plan for a temporary government of the Western territory.

A motion was made by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, to amend the report by inserting after the words "but not of voting," the following clause:

> That such measures ~~shall be taken by Congress~~ as may from time to time be necessary ~~for and consistent with~~ not inconsistent with the ~~articles~~ principles of the confederation are ~~shall be~~ reserved for and shall be taken by Congress to preserve peace and good order among the settlers in any of the said new States, previous to their assuming a temporary government as aforesaid.[1]

"That measures not inconsistent with the principles of the Confederation, and necessary for the preservation of peace and good order among the settlers in any of the said new states, until they shall assume a temporary government as aforesaid, may, from time to time, be taken by the United States in Congress assembled.

A motion was made by Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, to postpone that amendment, in order to take up the following:

That until such time as the settlers aforesaid, shall have adopted the constitution and laws of some one of the original states as aforesaid, for a temporary government, the said settlers shall be ruled by magistrates to be appointed by the United States in Congress assembled, and under such laws and regulations as the United States in Congress assembled, shall direct.

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 563.

On the question to postpone for the purpose aforesaid, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Jacob] Read,

New Hampshire,			*Pennsylvania,*		
Mr. Foster,	no	no	Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	no		Montgomery,	ay	
Massachusetts,			Hand,	ay	
Mr. Gerry,	no	no	*Maryland,*		
Partridge,	no		Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
Rhode Island,		*	Chase,	ay	
Mr. Ellery,	no		*Virginia,*		
Connecticut,			Mr. Jefferson,	no	no
Mr. Sherman,	no	no	Mercer,	ay	
Wadsworth,	no		Monroe,	no	
New York,			*North Carolina,*		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	div.	Mr. Williamson,	no	div.
Paine,	no		Spaight,	ay	
New Jersey,			*South Carolina,*		
Mr. Beatty,	no	no	Mr. Read,	ay	div.
Dick,	no		Beresford,	no	

So the question was lost.

The amendment of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry being adopted, the report as amended was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That so much of the territory ceded or to be ceded by individual states to the United States, as is already purchased or shall be purchased of the Indian inhabitants, and offered for sale by Congress, shall be divided into distinct states, in the following manner, as nearly as such cessions will admit; that is to say, by parallels of latitude, so that each State shall comprehend from ~~south to north~~ north to south two degrees of latitude, beginning to count from the completion of ~~thirty one the forty fifth degree~~ forty-five degrees north of the equator; and by meridians of longitude, one of which shall pass through the lowest point of the rapids of Ohio, and the other through the western cape of the mouth of the Great Kanhaway: but the territory eastward of this last meridian, between the Ohio, Lake Erie and Pensylvania, shall be one State whatsoever may be its comprehension of latitude. That which may lie beyond the completion of the 45th degree between the said meridians, shall make part of the State adjoining it on the south: and that part of the Ohio, which is between the same meridians coinciding nearly with the parallel of 39° shall be substituted so far in lieu of that parallel as a boundary line.

That the settlers on any territory so purchased, and offered for sale, shall, either on their own petition or on the order of Congress, receive authority from them, with appointments of time and place, for their free males of full age within the limits of their State to meet together, for the purpose of establishing a temporary government, to adopt the constitution and laws of any one of the original States; so that such laws nevertheless shall be subject to alteration by their ordinary legislature; and to erect, subject to a like alteration, counties, townships, or other divisions, for the election of members for their legislature.

~~That such temporary government shall only continue in force in any State until it shall have acquired twenty thousand free inhabitants when~~ [That when any such State shall have acquired twenty thousand free inhabitants, on] giving due proof thereof to Congress, they shall receive from them authority with appointments of time and place, to call a convention of representatives to establish a permanent constitution and government for themselves. Provided that both the temporary and permanent governments be established on these principles as their basis:

First. That they shall for ever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America.

Second. That ~~in their persons, property and territory~~ they shall be subject ~~to the government of the United States in Congress assembled and~~ to the Articles of Confederation in all those cases in which the original states shall be so subject, [and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congress assembled, conformable thereto.

Third. That they in no case shall interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United states in Congress assembled, nor with the ordinances and regulations which Congress may find necessary, for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers.]

Fourth. That they shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts contracted or to be contracted, to be apportioned on them by Congress, according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments thereof shall be made on the other states.

Fifth. That no tax shall be imposed on lands, the property of the United States.

Sixth. That their respective governments shall be ~~in republican forms, and shall admit no person to be a citizen who holds any hereditary title. That after the year 1800 of the Christian era, there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the said states, otherwise than in punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been convicted to have been personally guilty,~~ republican.

[Seventh. That the lands of non-resident proprietors shall, in no case, be taxed higher than those of residents within any new State, before the admission thereof to a vote by its delegates in Congress.]

That whensoever any of the said states shall have, of free inhabitants, as many as shall then be in any one the least numerous of the thirteen Original states, such State shall be admitted by its delegates into the Congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the said original states; provided ~~nine states agree to such admission, according to the reservation of the eleventh of the Articles of Confederation.~~ the consent of so many states in Congress is first obtained as may at the time be competent to such admission. And in order to adapt the said Articles of Confederation to the state of Congress when its numbers shall be thus increased, it shall be proposed to the legislatures of the states, originally parties thereto, to require the assent of two-thirds of the United States in Congress assembled, in all those cases wherein, by the said articles, the assent of nine states is now required, which being agreed to by them, shall be binding on the new states. Until such admission by their delegates into Congress, any of the said states, after the establishment of their temporary government, shall have authority to keep a member in Congress, with a right of debating but not of voting.

[That measures not inconsistent with the principles of the Confederation, and necessary for the preservation of peace and good order among the settlers in any of the said new states, until they shall assume a temporary government as aforesaid, may, from time to time, be taken by the United States in Congress assembled.]

That the preceding articles shall be formed into a charter of compact; shall be duly executed by the President of the United States in Congress assembled, under his hand, and the seal of the United States; shall be promulgated; and shall stand as fundamental constitutions between the thirteen original states, and each of the several states now newly described, unalterable [from and after the sale of any part of the territory of such State, pursuant to this resolve] but by the joint consent of the United States in Congress assembled, and of the particular State within which such alteration is proposed to be made.[1]

On the question to agree to the foregoing, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Richard] Beresford,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	ay
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	no	no
Beresford,	no	

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

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[1] The report, in the writing of Thomas Jefferson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 55. The portions in brackets are not in Jefferson's draft, which, according to the indorsement, was rendered March 24. A printed copy showing the alterations made during the debate, is on folios 53 and 57½. The words lined out so appear on this printed copy and not in the Journal. This printed copy with the manuscript alterations was passd April 23.

On this day, as the indorsement indicates, was read a letter of April 15, from Oliver Wolcott and Richard Butler. It is in No. 56, folio 101.

Also, a letter of April 17, 1784, from Benjamin Harrison, Governor of Virginia. It is in No. 71, II, folio 371.

Also, a letter of March 31 from Stephen Higginson. It is in No. 78, XII, folio 299.

Also, a letter of March 31 from Oliver Wolcott. It is in No. 78, XXIV, folio 463.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present as yesterday.

A motion was made by Mr. [Edward] Hand, seconded by Mr. [John] Montgomery, in the words following:

"Whereas Congress have by their resolution of the 23 day of January last, on the petition of Zebulon Butler and others, directed the institution of a court to determine the private right of soil within the territory westward of the Delaware, formerly in dispute between the states of Connecticut and Pensylvania, agreeably to the ninth of the Articles of Confederation, and have assigned the fourth Monday in June next, for the appearance of the parties by their lawful agents, before Congress, or a committee of the states, to proceed in the premises as by the Confederation is directed. And whereas the general assembly of the State of Pensylvania have, by their resolutions of the 14th day of February last, instructed their delegates in Congress as follows:

In General Assembly, *Saturday, February 14, 1784, A. M.*

Resolved, 1. That the delegates of this State be instructed to apply immediately to Congress for an explanation of their act of the 23 day of last month, it appearing to be uncertain whether the fourth Monday in June next is fixed for the purpose of appointing commissioners or judges to constitute a court for hearing and determining the matter in question, or for the purpose of deciding how far the same is, by the ninth Article of Confederation, submitted to the determination of such a court.

2. That if Congress by their said act meant the appointment of commissioners or judges next June, then the said delegates move for a re-consideration of the said act, and represent to Congress, that the agents for the State of Connecticut did, upon the late trial at Trenton, suggest to the court there, that the tenants in possession of the lands in controversy, and particularly the companies of Delaware and Susquehanna, were improving and holding large tracts of land under title from the State of Connecticut; and that by the said Article of Confederation, a court is to be established for the trial of the private right of soil only where it is claimed, under different grants

of two or more states, so that Zebulon Butler and the other claimants cannot be entitled to such a court, unless they come within the description aforesaid, which it is apprehended they do not. That if Congress should consent to establish courts at the instance of persons, not first proving themselves to be included in the description aforesaid, the citizens of this State may be harassed by a multitude of pretended claims at the suit of adventurers or invaders of the State, and in the present instance at the suit of persons who have settled in defiance of the resolution of Congress of the 23 day of December, 1775.

3. That if Congress shall resolve that the matter in question is, by the said Article of the Confederation, submitted to the determination of such a court, then the said delegates insist that Zebulon Butler, and the other claimants, be required, immediately, to exhibit to Congress schedules particularizing their claims.

Resolved, That it was the intention of Congress, by their act of the 23 day of January last, that commissioners or judges should be appointed on the fourth Monday in June next, agreeably to the ninth of the Articles of Confederation, to determine the private right of soil within the territory westward of the Delaware, formerly in controversy between the States of Connecticut and Pensylvania, and lately determined to be within the jurisdiction of the State of Pensylvania.

Nevertheless, as the petitioners aforesaid have not shewn to Congress that their claims to the private right of soil, within the territory aforesaid, originate from grants obtained from the State of Connecticut, which alone can entitle them to a court agreeably to the 9th of the Articles of Confederation,

Resolved, That the resolution of the 23 day of January last, directing the institution of a court for determining the private right of soil within the territory westward of the Delaware, formerly in controversy between the states of Connecticut and Pensylvania, and appointing the fourth Monday in June next, for the appearance of the parties, by their lawful agents, before Congress, or a committee of the states, be, and it is hereby suspended, until Zebulon Butler, and the other petitioners, claimants as aforesaid, exhibit to Congress, or a committee of the states, schedules, particularizing their claims.

Resolved, That the parties, claimants as aforesaid, be informed, that their appearance, by their agents, before Congress, or a committee of the states, as specified by the resolution of Congress of the 23 day of January last, will not be necessary, until the further determinations of Congress, or a committee of the states, in the premises, be made known to them.[1]

A motion was made by Mr. [David] Howell, seconded by Mr. [John] Montgomery, that the foregoing motion be committed; and on the question for commitment, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Edward] Hand,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	div.
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	no	div.
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Jefferson,	ay	ay
Hardy,	ay	
Mercer,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it was resolved to commit it.[2]

According to the order of the day, Congress proceeded to the election of two commissioners to negotiate with the Indians, in the room of Mr. S. Higgenson and Mr. N. Greene, who have declined that office; and, the ballots being taken, Mr. Benjamin Lincoln and Mr. Arthur Lee were elected.

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 347.

[2] This motion and vote are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 354. The indorsement shows that Mr. Hand's motion was referred to Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [William] Ellery and Mr. [Hugh] Williamson.

[Representation of the Delegates for New York resp'g the New Hampshire Grants]

To the United States of America in Congress Assembled:

The under written Delegates for the State of New York have the honor in obedience to an express instruction from the Legislature of the said State to represent that in compliance with an Act of Congress bearing date the twenty fourth day of Sept., 1779 (in which Act of Congress it is among other things declared that disputes at present subsist between the States of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, and New York on the one part and the people of the District called the New Hampshire Grants on the other, which people deny the Jurisdiction of each of the said States over the said District and each of the said States claim the said District against each other as well as against the said people as appertaining in whole or in part to them respectively.

Resolved, unanimously, That it be and hereby is earnestly recommended to the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay and New York forthwith to pass laws expressly authorising Congress to hear and determine all differences between them relative to their respective Boundaries in the Mode prescribed by the Articles of Confederation, so that Congress may proceed thereon by the first day of February next at farthest; and further, that the said States of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire and New York do, by express laws for that purpose, refer to the decision of Congress all differences or disputes relative to Jurisdiction which they may respectively have with the people of the district aforesaid, so that Congress may proceed thereon on the said first day of February next, and also to authorise Congress to hear and determine all disputes subsisting between the Grantees of the several States aforesaid with each other or with either of the said States respecting Title to lands lying in the said District, to be heard and determined in the mode prescribed for such cases by the Articles of Confederation aforesaid; and further to provide that no advantage be taken of the nonperformance of the Conditions of any of the Grants of the said land, but that further reasonable time be allowed for fulfilling such conditions.

Resolved unanimously, That Congress will and do hereby pledge their faith to carry into Execution, and support their Decisions and determinations in the premises, in favour of whichsoever of the parties the same may be to the end that permanent concord and harmony may be established between them, and all cause of uneasiness be removed; and that Congress will on the said first day of February next proceed without delay to hear and examine into the disputes and differences relative to Jurisdiction aforesaid, between the said three States respectively, or such of them as shall pass the laws before mentioned, on the one part, and the people of the District aforesaid, who claim to be a seperate Jurisdiction on the other, and after a full and fair hearing will decide and determine the same according to equity.) The Legislature of the State of New York did on the twenty first day of October, 1779, pass a law entitled "An Act to empower the Congress of the United States of America to determine all controversies relative to certain lands in the Counties of Cumberland, Gloucester, Charlotte, and Albany, commonly called the New Hampshire Grants" by which said act or law the State of New York did fully comply with the recommendation contained in the aforesaid (in part recited) Act of Congress as by comparing the s^d Act or law of the State of New York with the said Act of Congress will appear.

That on the nineteenth day of September, 1780, all the parties concerned in the said Controversy (Massachusetts Bay excepted) being present, Congress did attend to the hearing of the said Controversy, but have not to this day decided the same.

The underwritten further represent that the Inhabitants of the said District have paid no regard to the Act of Congress which inhibited the people of the said District who deny the Jurisdiction of all the aforenamed States from granting lands or exercising any Authority over those who profess themselves to be Citizens of, or to owe Allegiance to, any or either of the said States but in violation and Contempt thereof have granted lands and exercised Authority over those in the said District who profess to owe and yield Allegiance to the Authority of the State of New York, to the utter ruin of many of the Citizens thereof.

That the Inhabitants of the said District have shewn the utmost contempt of the Act of Congress of the fifth day of December, 1782, by refusing to restore the Estates which they had confiscated belonging to persons who refused to yield obedience to the laws of (the Assumed State of) Vermont, although the said persons professed to owe and yield Allegiance to the State of New York and who were guilty of no other offence.

The Inhabitants of the said District have likewise refused to set at liberty those who were in confinement for like causes as aforesaid, unless upon large bonds for their good behaviour, and have actually taken up and confined in close Jail, divers of the Citizens of the State of New York who had been banished by the authority of the assumed State of Vermont aforesaid, and for the offence afsd and who returned to their habitations in the District aforesaid under the sanction of the last mentioned act of Congress.

That the Inhabitants of the said District under the name and stile of the State of Vermont have in and during the course of the winter now last past actually raised Troops and levyed war upon and against the Citizens of the State of New York in Cumberland County, in the District aforesaid, where numbers were wounded, made prisoners of and inhumanly loaded with Irons and Confined in close Jail, while others were driven from their habitations and obliged to fly into the Neighbouring States and for no other cause than the offence aforesaid. The underwritten further represent that the pretended Government of Vermont, hath lately extended its claim and granted lands far to the westward of any of the most westerly Grants ever made by the Government of the late Colony of New Hampshire, and have actually seized the lands so granted, although the same have long since passed to the Citizens of the State of New York, under the Great Seal of the late Colony of New York.

The underwritten further represent that the Legislature of the State of New York, to prevent the evils of civil discord, have besides a chearful compliance with the recommendation of Congress to submit the said Controversy to their final determination, made many liberal cessions in favour of those claimants, particularly a certain Act entitled "An Act for quieting the minds of the Inhabitants in the North Eastern Parts of this State," passed the fourteenth day of April, 1782, by which said Act the lands granted by New Hampshire and the pretended State of Vermont were Confirmed to the claimants, and even occupants without right, were liberally provided for, and there was no exception or reserve, but in favor of the oldest patents in question.

The underwritten further represent that they are expressly instructed in the most ~~urgent and~~ pointed manner to press Congress for a decision of this long protracted Controversy, not on Consideration of public expediency, but consistently with the Assurances of Congress according to equity.

mony may be established between them, and all cause of uneasiness be removed; and that Congress will on the said first day of February next proceed without delay to hear and examine into the disputes and differences relative to Jurisdiction aforesaid, between the said three States respectively, or such of them as shall pass the laws before mentioned, on the one part, and the people of the District aforesaid, who claim to be a seperate Jurisdiction on the other, and after a full and fair hearing will decide and determine the same according to equity.) The Legislature of the State of New York did on the twenty first day of October, 1779, pass a law entitled "An Act to empower the Congress of the United States of America to determine all controversies relative to certain lands in the Counties of Cumberland, Gloucester, Charlotte, and Albany, commonly called the New Hampshire Grants" by which said act or law the State of New York did fully comply with the recommendation contained in the aforesaid (in part recited) Act of Congress as by comparing the s^{d} Act or law of the State of New York with the said Act of Congress will appear.

That on the nineteenth day of September, 1780, all the parties concerned in the said Controversy (Massachusetts Bay excepted) being present, Congress did attend to the hearing of the said Controversy, but have not to this day decided the same.

The underwritten further represent that the Inhabitants of the said District have paid no regard to the Act of Congress which inhibited the people of the said District who deny the Jurisdiction of all the aforenamed States from granting lands or exercising any Authority over those who profess themselves to be Citizens of, or to owe Allegiance to, any or either of the said States but in violation and Contempt thereof have granted lands and exercised Authority over those in the said District who profess to owe and yield Allegiance to the Authority of the State of New York, to the utter ruin of many of the Citizens thereof.

That the Inhabitants of the said District have shewn the utmost contempt of the Act of Congress of the fifth day of December, 1782, by refusing to restore the Estates which they had confiscated belonging to persons who refused to yield obedience to the laws of (the Assumed State of) Vermont, although the said persons professed to owe and yield Allegiance to the State of New York and who were guilty of no other offence.

The Inhabitants of the said District have likewise refused to set at liberty those who were in confinement for like causes as aforesaid, unless upon large bonds for their good behaviour, and have actually taken up and confined in close Jail, divers of the Citizens of the State of New York who had been banished by the authority of the assumed State of Vermont aforesaid, and for the offence afs^d and who returned to their habitations in the District aforesaid under the sanction of the last mentioned act of Congress.

That the Inhabitants of the said District under the name and stile of the State of Vermont have in and during the course of the winter now last past actually raised Troops and levyed war upon and against the Citizens of the State of New York in Cumberland County, in the District aforesaid, where numbers were wounded, made prisoners of and inhumanly loaded with Irons and Confined in close Jail, while others were driven from their habitations and obliged to fly into the Neighbouring States and for no other cause than the offence aforesaid. The underwritten further represent that the pretended Government of Vermont, hath lately extended its claim and granted lands far to the westward of any of the most westerly Grants ever made by the Government of the late Colony of New Hampshire, and have actually seized the lands so granted, although the same have long since passed to the Citizens of the State of New York, under the Great Seal of the late Colony of New York.

The underwritten further represent that the Legislature of the State of New York, to prevent the evils of civil discord, have besides a chearful compliance with the recommendation of Congress to submit the said Controversy to their final determination, made many liberal cessions in favour of those claimants, particularly a certain Act entitled "An Act for quieting the minds of the Inhabitants in the North Eastern Parts of this State," passed the fourteenth day of April, 1782, by which said Act the lands granted by New Hampshire and the pretended State of Vermont were Confirmed to the claimants, and even occupants without right, were liberally provided for, and there was no exception or reserve, but in favor of the oldest patents in question.

The underwritten further represent that they are expressly instructed in the most ~~urgent and~~ pointed manner to press Congress for a decision of this long protracted Controversy, not on Consideration of public expediency, but consistently with the Assurances of Congress according to equity.

That the State of New York complains of the most grievous injustice done them by Congress by delaying the said Decision, especially after a submission in compliance with the unanimous recommendations of Congress, in full confidence that Congress would have kept their faith inviolate, and which in the most solemn manner they had pledged.

That great danger and distress will arise from the further procrastination of the said Decesion, as the leaders of the said District have raised Troops and do now employ them to reduce other Inhabitants, resident in the said District and acknowledging themselves Citizens of and to one allegiance to the State of New York, to submit to the said assumed Government of Vermont, and many of the Inhabitants of the said District, for professing to owe Allegiance to the State of New York, are now in the most grievous state of distress under close confinement, calling upon the State of New York for protection and redress, and that when every State ought to be in the full enjoyment of the blessing of peace under the protection of the federal Union, the State of New York alone, is on the point of experiencing the calamities of an internal war; but that if she must recur to force for the preservation of her lawful Authority the impartial world will pronounce that none of the blood shed or disorder which may ensue, can be imputed to the Legislature thereof, who appeal to the Journals of Congress for the rectitude, moderation and liberality of the measures they have invariably pursued to produce an amicable determination of the Controversy.

That in order to afford another instance of the Upright intentions of the Government of the State of New York, Congress be entreated to Guarantee the Concessions made on her part by the said Act of the fourteenth day of April, 1782.

The Underwritten further represent that the Legislature of the State of New York conceive themselves to be urgently pressed by the great duty of self-preservation to prepare without loss of time for the Worst events, and however sincerely they are disposed to maintain the Union and to manifest an Inviolable respect for Congress, yet if the decision which has so long in vain been solicited, should not be pronounced within two Months next after nine States shall be represented in Congress, subsequent to a representation of the State of New York, no further expectation can be entertained of such decision; and the said State of New York, with whatever deep regret, will be compelled to consider herself as left to pursue her own Councils destitute of the protection of the United States to whose Judgment they have chearfully submitted and on whose Justice they have hitherto relied.

The Underwritten do therefore by this public Act, which they pray may be received and filed among the records of the United States, make known the just expectations and earnest request of the Legislature of the State of New York, declaring their readiness to lay before such of the Members of Congress as may be uninformed, satisfactory evidence of the title of the State of New York to all that part of the Controverted District which lies on the West Side of Connecticut River.

Done at Annapolis, in obedience to the express instructions of the Legislature of the State of New York, the 24th day of April, 1784.

Ch. De Witt
Ephraim Paine
Delegates for the State of New York and Agents in the Controversy referred to.[1]

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, eleven states as before.

A motion was made by Mr. [David] Howell, seconded by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

The Delegates for the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations pursuant to their instructions as entered on the Journals of the 14th instant beg leave to renew their motion of that day entered and amended as follows, viz, Resolved:

That the President be, and he hereby is authorised and directed, to adjourn Congress on the third day of June next,

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[1] This representation, in the writing of a clerk is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 40, II, folios 475–483. The indorsement states that it was read on this day and referred to ~~Mr. Jefferson,~~ Mr. [Jacob] Read, ~~Mr. Gerry,~~ Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [William] Ellery, Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, and Mr. [George] Partridge. Committee Book, No. 186, states that the committee was renewed May 17.

On this or an approximate date was read a letter of April 16, 1784, from George Clinton, Governor of New York. It is in No. 67, II, folio 453.

Also, as the indorsement states, another letter of April 16, 1784, from George Clinton, Governor of New York, which was referred to Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Thomas] Stone and Mr. [Roger] Sherman. It is in No. 67, II, folio 461.

Also, a letter of May 12 from Colonel George Morgan. It is in No. 163, folio 365.

68)

Lord North

(No. 32.)

[illegible]

Quebec April the 26th 1784.

My Lord

As this Letter goes by Land to New York, I cannot be very particular. It is nevertheless proper that Your Lordship should be apprised that I have not had the Honor to Receive any dispatches of a Later date than last August. I am very anxious for Instructions with regard to the Evacuation of the Posts and Garrisons in the Upper Countries which will be found without the Limits assigned to this Province by the Definitive Treaty, of which I have not had any Official Information, tho' it has been Many Months printed in the American News Papers.

No. 1 2 -

No. 3.

I inclose a Copy of the Transactions between the Deputies of the Six Confederated Nations of Indians and Major General Schuyler on the part of the United States of America, as likewise of a Letter from the French Ambassador, and of my Answer. — Many Reasons Concurred to Make

I inclose a Copy of the transactions between the Deputies of the Six Confederated Nations of Indians and Major General Schuyler on the part of the United States of America, as likewise of a Letter from the French Ambassador, and of my Answer. — Many Reasons concurred to make me decline the Visit. — I think it by no Means im=possible that the desire to see the Falls of Niagara may have arrisen from a premeditated design of being there at the time when the Congress between the Indians and the Commissioners from the United States of America should be held, & that recourse might be had to the Mediation of the French Ambassador in arranging the difficulties between the Parties, a measure which would be attended with great immediate Humiliation and many future Inconveniences to the British Interests in that part of the World. —

No. 1 2 -

No. 3.

I have the Honor &c. with the greatest Respect & Esteem

My Lord Your Lordship's Most Obed.t & Most Hum.e Serv.t

(Signed) Fred: Haldimand

P.S. 29th April —

I have this day received Letters from the Officer Commanding at St. Johns acquainting me that a Colonel in the American Service, one of the Gentlemen who accompanied Major General de Steuben last Summer, had arrived at Isle aux Noix with dispatches for me from Mr. Clinton Governor of the State of New York. I have sent Orders for his being Conducted to Head Quarters, and entertain hopes that time may be gained by that means for Vessels to arrive from London, and for me to be honored with His Majesty's Commands and Instructions relative to the Evacuation of the upper Posts. I shall lose no time in acquainting Your Lordship with the result of his Errand tho' my present opinion is to take

Means for Vessels to arrive from London, and for me
to be honored with His Majesty's Commands and
Instructions relative to the Evacuation of the upper Posts.
I shall lose no time in acquainting Your Lordship with the
result of this Errand tho' My present Opinion is to take
no Steps and even to Shun an Answer if possible till
my Instructions shall Arrive. I this Day put an End
to the Sessions of the Legislative Council and have
given My Assent to an Ordinance for the Security
of the Personal Liberty of the Subject agreeable to
my Letter of the 6th November last (No. 21) to Your
Lordship. — I have only time at present to get Copies
No. 4, 5, & 6 — of my Speech and the Addresses from the Legislative
Council with My Answers to be transcribed, but will have
the Honor to transmit the Ordinance and Minutes of the L. Council
by the first Vessel which will sail from Hence.

Extract of His Excellancey General
Letter to Brigadier Genl. Sir John Jonson
relative to the Quantitty or Extent of the
Upon the Bay de Quinte Which the Moha
pitched Upon and Are going to possess–

Sir,

..You have my Authority to acquai
..the Mohawks Who have decided for the
..Bay de Quinte that it is not my Inte
..to restrict them to the 7,000 Acres mentio
..in their Letter to Colonel Claus, and th
..Whatever addition shall be deemed neces
..for their more comfortable and happy Es
..blishment, shall be made – I speak of the
..Mohawk Nation, for I never will entertai
..an Idea of any distinction between the
..Villages – I shall also in complia
..with their Wishes Allow them A schoolma
..You have not said any thing of the

pers

..Person they rec[illegible]nd; I shall the
..rely intirely u[illegible] your Choise of a
..Proper person; [illegible]e Attachment to
..Goverment in [illegible] situations must b
..the firste consederation ——

I am &c &c

(Signed) Fred: Haldimand

A true extract
Examined by me
(Signed) John Jonson

Montreal 3d May
1784

(120)

Extract of a Le

from

his Excellancie Genl. Haldi

to

Brigidier Genl. Sr. John Jonson

May 2 - 1784

Carleton Island May 4th 1784

Dear Sir

When I parted you I promised to write you a letter from Saint Reckis. but whilts I was at the Vilage I had no good opportunity and the same time I expect'd to see of your people just above the Vilage there I thought to write from, but we did not saw your people untill a great ways above the long Soe, so in short I lost the opportuni of writing to you which I am very sorry for it, be cause it might be some use to you for your new Settlements. I found of those Saint Reckis Indians are reasonable Enough about the lands. I believe they mean to

To
Sir John Johnson

make

you a present the Island fasing your lott
also they mean to allow you the land you wish
to have the lower part of their land uppor part
of yours, so that means it will fill up your line
But on your part I hope you will please to
get writings for the remainder of the Indian
land and with all the Island about Except
the two above mantiond, I told them after Sir
John gets his line fill, up it will still remain
about three miles or littler leſs in front they
were very well satisfied profeser they get the
writings, I hope you will please to use
those Indians in Easy manner. They complaint
very much of Col. Cample & his interpriter
of giving them both good words and threatening,
my part I would not wish by no means they
should be treat in that manner about land
matters

John Johnson

at this present unhappy times for us, for
many reasons in first place it gives the dam
Rebels larger Mouths for many things
against us and it is very good Example for
them, to get all Our lands from us, if those
Saint Rechis Indians was any ways forced a
bout lands I therefore wish they should be
treated in easy manner, before the council
takes place I mean we & the Rebels, indeed
those Indians are very reasonable about the
matter. They told me that Col.^{l} Campble
promised them that he would get a pattent
for two french miles in front I told them that
I did not believed he could get that. I agree
with them very well after all — The two men
I lifted to this place when I went down, they
have been at Kanawarohare since, the
Oneidas told them that they believe the

To
Sir John Johnson

Rebels

entents tobe intirely be masters themselves
all the lands within their lines and they
intent to makes as to agree every thing
in their own way otherways they will cutt us
us off from the fase of the Earth, they likewis
said the council will be held at fort Stanwix.
The ship left this place four das ago for
Niagara, Major Harris is gone to Cataroque so
I dont know how to get off from this as yet —
I arrived the 11,th day from lachine I should
be Exceeding if you could lent me a nother
your laced coats if there is any blue —

I remain your most faighfull friend
& Humble Servt.
Jos Brant

To

Sir John Johnson Bart,

The late appointment of *Lieutenant* of the County of Fayette seems to give the well affected to this *Government* some umbrage! and I think very justly! If those we have been contending with so long, and after having had so much trouble to support the Rights of Pennsylvania against a People yet enemies in their Hearts to the Government are to have their Lands Patented at *ten shillings* sterling ℘r Hundred acres and those who have been good subjects and have suffered for their attachment to the Government to pay at the rate of ten Pounds and they to rule over us into the Bargain, is extraordinary indeed! Suppose no Person had contended for the rights of Pennsylvania in this quarter, and universal consent had been gained by Virginia, is it probable that you would have effected ample Justice to the State so readily? Seeing the manner faithful subjects of Pennsylvania are treated; would your Excellency wonder if they would be ready to join any party or new State faction that might offer? I am persuaded your Excellency must have had matters misrepresented; It cannot be your Excellency's wish to give the least offence to the good citizens of this Commonwealth. If men of Character and Circumstances; men who have borne the burthen thro' the War are to be displaced from office and no reasons given, no Complaint, no hearing to Justify themselves, If there are, few indeed, I may say few that have any Reputation to lose will Care to accept of any office under the Government.

My kind Compliments to General Ewing, General Irvine & Col^{o} Wall.

Am Sir with the highest respect,
Your Excellencys most obedient
Humble servant,
CHRISTOPHER HAYS.

Directed,

His Excellency John Dickinson, Esquire, President of the State Pennsylvania.

Hon^{d} by Col^{o} Edw^{d} Cook.

COMMISSIONERS FOR TREATING WITH INDIANS TO PRES. DICKINSON, 1784.

Sir,

We beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of an official letter from your Excellency of the 29th of February last* informing us that the Supreme Executive Council "in pursuance of a Resolution of the "General Assembly of the twenty-fifth of last September had "appointed us) in conjunction with William Maclay, Esq^{r},) com-"missioners to hold a Treaty with the Indians claiming the unpur-"chased Territory within the acknowledged limits of this State for "the purpose of purchasing the same."

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* Col. Rec., XIV., p. 40.

Highly sensible of the honour conferred and the Trust reposed in us we should have embraced an earlier opportunity of returning our thanks to your Excellency and Council and of communicating with you upon the important business of our appointment, but circumstances occurred soon after the receipt of your letter which made it absolutely necessary for Mr Maclay to visit his Family with whom he still remains, similar circumstances presented themselves to Col° Atlee since which until very lately we could not with propriety address you on this subject.

Conformably to the Desire of Council as expressed in your Excellencys Letter, of our obtaining the fullest Information as soon as possible, of all the circumstances that will be connected with the execution of this trust, we beg leave first to observe, That the Indians to be treated with are the Six Nations, viz., the Mohawks, Oneidas, Tuscaroras, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, the Shawanees Indians and Delawares. With regard to the notices to be communicated to them and the persons by whom such notices shall be sent, we conceive there would be a great propriety, in these particulars, of acting in conjunction with the Continental commissioners.

We beg leave to suggest that Samuel Weiser (whose Father was much esteemed by the Six Nations and formerly their Interpreter at almost every Treaty for a series of years) is considered by us as a suitable person not only to serve the notices but to act as an Interpreter, being fully acquainted with their Language & Customs from a long residence in their Country and also possessed of their confidence in so high a Degree as even to be adopted among them.

In regard to the most suitable time & place of holding a Treaty you will permit us to observe we entertain an opinion that the power of fixing these will be exercized more properly by Congress through their Commissioners, but being informed that the continental commissioners have not formed a Board at New York through the non-attendance of several of the members and that General Butler is now on his way to Congress to make report of the arrangements necessary to be made previous to a treaty, we cannot therefore until his Return or untill we shall hear from him give an answer on this Head with any possible precision, unless it shall be the opinion of your Excellency and Council that we are authorized to negociate a Bargain with the Indians for the unpurchased Lands within the State independent of the United States, in which case with Submission we conceive Tioga or Wyaloosing on the East Branch of Sasquehanna to be the most proper place to meet the Six Nations, at the same time we beg leave to remark that the Disposition of the Delawares at the Treaty of 1775 at Fort Pitt (and we are informed the same spirit still exists,) clearly evinces the necessity of having them present at any Bargain we shall make with the Six Nations, the Delawares at that Treaty having declared themselves independent of them, so that perhaps it may deem'd expedient to have another Council Fire kindled to the westward to accommodate the Delawares, Shawanese and such of the Western Tribes as may be in any wise interested.

The provisions necessary to be laid in for the Indians during the Treaty we conceive should be at the expence of the Continent provided we do not treat separately, and in respect to the form of the Treaty most proper to be adopted, we apprehend it eligible to pursue former precedents as near as possible many of which we are already possessed of, presents we presume are highly necessary a List of the articles together with an estimate of their prices we shall have the honour to lay before you hereafter.

We will just add that sundry contingent expences will arise in transacting this Business, such as hiring Expresses, sending Messengers into the Indian Countries, procuring Strings & Belts of Wampum &c. We therefore submit to the Consideration of Council the sum which shall be deemed absolutely necessary for these purposes.

After submitting another opinion whether a joint Commission should not be made out for us under the Seal signed by the president in Council we beg leave to subscribe ourselves,

Your Excellency's most obedient
and very humble servants.
SAM. J. ATLEE,
FRANCIS JOHNSTON.

May 17th, 1784.

THOMAS BARCLAY TO PRE. DICKINSON, 1784.

Paris, 17 May, 1784.

Sir,

I do myself the Honor to inclose to Your Excellency the Arret of His Majesty's Council of State for Confirming the Privileges, which the Ports of Dunkirk & Marseilles have for some Time enjoyed, and for Establishing L' Orient & Bayonne as free Ports. I beg leave to refer to the Arret, and remain with great Respect.

Sir,
Your Excellency's
most obedient &
most humble Servt,
THOS. BARCLAY.

Indorsed,

1784, August 19th. From Thomas Barclay, American Consul at Paris.

Directed

His Excellency, John Dickinson, Esqr, Philadelphia.

admitted as vouchers of the payment in settling the accounts of the Loan office.[1]

The Committee of the week [Mr. David Howell, Mr. James Monroe and Mr. Abiel Foster] to whom was referred the Memorial of Joseph Kendall late Physician and Surgeon in the army and navy of the U. States, dated Annapolis May 12, 1784, and praying the appointment of Surgeon of one of the western Posts, or of one of the Regiments to be raised on the peace establishment, beg leave to report that said Memorial be placed on file in the Secretary's office.[2]

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland and Virginia; and from the State of North Carolina, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, and from South Carolina, Mr. [Richard] Beresford.

~~A motion being before the House and Mr. Howell rising to speak, he was called to order and the Congress was called upon to determine on this question.~~

~~Is Mr. Howell in order to speak as a Member of Congress.~~

A motion was made by Mr. [Arthur] Lee, seconded by Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, as follows:

"Whereas it is ~~expedient~~ necessary to expedite the holding treaties with the Indian nations, which it appears cannot be done but under the protection of an armed force;

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[1] This report, in the writing of Thomas Stone, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 29, folio 209. According to the indorsement it was read on this day and "Monday, May 24, assigned for consideration."

The letter of the Superintendent of Finance is in No. 137, III, folio 561.

[2] This report, in the writing of David Howell, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 555. The indorsement states that it was agreed to on this day.

The memorial of Joseph Kendall, as the indorsement indicates, was filed this day. It is in No. 41, V, folio 41.

Also, a letter of 17 May from John Beatty. It was referred to Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Thomas] Stone, and Mr. [Roger] Sherman, and recommitted to Mr. [David] Howell and Mr. [Rufus] King. It is in No. 78, IV, folio 441. Committee Book, No. 186, says, "See 18 April, 1785."

Therefore Resolved, That the Secretary in the War Office be directed, and he is hereby directed, to order three hundred men to be in readiness to march when and to what place or places the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, or any two of them, shall direct; and that the commanding officer of the said troops give such protection to the ~~negotiators~~ commissioners as they, or any two of them, shall require. And that the said secretary give order to the different keepers of the public stores, to furnish to the order of the Commissioners, or any two of them, such tents, marquees and other articles, as the said Commissioners shall think proper.

Resolved, That the Superintendant of finance take order for purchasing and transmitting the articles necessary for the Indian treaties, (according to a list hereunto annexed,) to such places as the Commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians, or any two of them, shall direct. That he furnish such additional articles, not exceeding the sum of dollars, as the said commissioners shall order, and that he contract with such persons as he may think proper, to furnish sixty thousand rations for the Indian treaties, at such places as the Commissioners or any two of them shall direct, together with such things as shall be necessary for the expences of the said Commissioners during the negotiation.

Resolved, That the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, or any two of them, being a majority of those present, be empowered to do the business of the commission, and to appoint a secretary, Messengers, interpreters, Storekeepers, and such artificers as they may find necessary, and to agree with them for their pay, for which they shall draw warrants on the treasury."[1]

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Arthur Lee, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 87.

Mr. [David] Howell rising to speak to this motion, was called to order by Mr. [John Francis] Mercer; and he having sat down, the following question was put to the house:

Is Mr. [David] Howell in order to speak as a member of Congress

On this the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [John Francis] Mercer,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Partridge,	ay	
Mr. Ellery,	ay	
Mr. Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Beatty,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	no	div.
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	no	no
Mercer,	no	
Lee,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	no	*
South Carolina,		
Mr. Beresford,	no	*

The votes of Mr. [William] Ellery and Mr. [David] Howell, on behalf of the State of Rhode Island, were objected to.

The Committee [Mr. Edward Hand, Mr. Roger Sherman and Mr. John Beatty] to whom was referred a memorial of Samuel Prentice late a Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental line of the State of Connecticut, praying that he may be allowed the difference of pay and rations between the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel Commandant during the time he commanded the 1st Connecticut regiment agreeably to what he conceives to be the practice of the Army, beg leave to report—

That the Memorial of Samuel Prentice be referred to the Pay Master General to report.[1]

The Committee of the Week [Mr. Richard Dobbs Spaight, Mr. James Wadsworth and Mr. George Partridge] report that the

Agreed.

petition of Edward V. Brown praying for the settlement and payment of his accounts for bread and flour supplied the Navy Board, be referred to the agent of Marine ~~to take order~~

Agreed. Referred to Comtt just chosen

That the memorial of John Bradford praying that the debts contracted by him as agent for the United States in the Marine Department may be discharged, or that his estate may be protected against suits brought for such debts, be committed.

Agreed.

That the Petition of Joseph Nourse praying for an additional grant for extra services in his office be referred over to the next Congress.

Referred to committee as chosen.

That the Petition of Col. B. Johnson praying for a settlement of his accounts against the United States for bomshells supplied the Commissary of Military Stores be referred to a Committee.[2]

Agreed to

Committee of the Week [Mr. Richard Dobbs Spaight, Mr. James Wadsworth and Mr. George Partridge] report that the petition of Danl. Waters and others late officers of the Marine praying that they may be allowed for the depreciation of their pay whilst in the public service be referred to the agent of Marine to report.

That the petition of Wm Smith and others in behalf of the trustees of the public school at Wilmington praying that the damages done to their school house, by its being improved [employed] as a public hospital, may be paid to them—lie on the Table.

That the petition of F. Cazeau praying that an order may pass to enable him to receive the benefit of an Act of Congress of the 18th March last in his favor, lie on the table till the report of a committee on that subject shall be considered.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, V, folio 213. The indorsement states that it was entered this day.

[2] This report, in the writing of George Partridge, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 549. It is undated, but doubtless belongs to this period.

~~That the petition of Robert Shewell praying that justice may be obtained for him in the case of the brig *Le Amiable Elizabethe's* being siezed upon and disposed of by Nicholas Gill, Esq., commissary and judge of the Vice Admirality at Newfound Land be referred to the Committee of the States.~~[1]

The Committee of the week [Mr. Richard Dobbs Spaight, Mr. James Wadsworth and Mr. George Partridge] to whom was referred the memorial of William Millar, late Captain Lieutenant in the 1st Reg^{t} of Artillery commanded by Col. Charles Harrison, setting forth that at the time three months' pay was issued to the army he was not present, and by reason of certain circumstances in his case, he cannot obtain the same without the interference of Congress, and praying for a special resolution in his favor, beg leave to report, that s^{d} memorial be referred to a special committee.[2]

The Committee of the week [Mr. Richard Dobbs Spaight, Mr. James Wadsworth and Mr. George Partridge] report that the letter from William A. Patterson May 4, 1784, praying that a Brevet of Major may be given him lie on the table.[3]

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

A motion was made by Mr. [John Francis] Mercer, seconded by Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, in the words following:

The votes of Mr. [William] Ellery and Mr. [David] Howell, on behalf of the state of Rhode Island, were objected to

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[1] This report, in the writing of George Partridge, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 551. It is undated, but doubtless belongs to this period.

[2] This report, in the writing of David Howell, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 563.

[3] This report, in the writing of Richard Dobbs Spaight, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XVIII, folio 516. It is undated, but was made on this or an approximate date. Patterson's letter is on folio 513.

FRIDAY, MAY 28, [1784.]

Congress assembled. Present as before.

On motion of Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

Ordered, that Brigadier General Armand be furnished with a certified copy of the resolution of 22 April last respecting Colonel Ternant.

Sundry reports being called for, which were orders of the day, and the title of the first called for, being read, viz. "An Ordinance for ascertaining the mode of locating and disposing of lands in the Western territory," which is as follows:

AN ORDINANCE FOR ASCERTAINING THE MODE OF LOCATING AND DISPOSING OF LANDS IN THE WESTERN TERRITORY.

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, that the territory ceded by individual states to the United States, when the same shall have been purchased of the Indian inhabitants, and laid off into states, shall be disposed of in the following manner. It shall be divided into hundreds of ten geographical miles square, each mile containing 6086 feet, and 4-10ths of a foot, by lines to be run and marked due north and south, and others crossing these at right angles, the first of which lines, each way, shall be at ten miles distance from one of the corners of the State within which they shall be. But if the Indian purchase shall not have included any one of the corners of the State, the line shall then be run at the termination of integral miles, as measured from some one of the corners, but shall be extended, by actual marks, only so far as the purchase extends. These hundreds shall be sub-divided into lots of one mile square each, or 850 acres and 4-10ths of an acre, by marked lines, running in like manner due north and south, and others crossing these at right angles.

For laying off the said territory, surveyors shall be appointed by Congress, or the committee of the States, who shall proceed forthwith, under the direction of the register hereafter to be mentioned, to divide the same into hundreds, by lines in the directions, and at the intervals before mentioned; which lines shall be measured with a chain, shall be plainly marked by chaps or marks on the trees, and shall be exactly described on a plat, whereon shall be noted, at their proper distances, all water courses, mountains and other remarkable and permanent things, over or near which such lines shall pass.

The hundreds being laid off and marked, nine of them shall be assigned as a district to each surveyor, who shall then proceed to divide each hundred of his district into lots as before directed, beginning with the hundreds most in demand, and measuring, marking and platting the said dividing lines thereof in the manner before directed for the hundreds; save only that the lines of the lots shall be distinguished by a single mark on each tree, and those of the hundreds by three marks. And that the said lots may be capable of more accurate description and distinction from each other, those in every hundred shall be designated by the numbers in their order, from 1 to 100, beginning at the northwestern lot of the hundred, and applying the numbers from 1 to 10, to the lots of the first row from west to east successively; those from 11 to 20, to the lots of the second row from west to east and so on. The surveyors shall pay due and constant attention to the variation of the magnetic meridian, and shall run and note all lines by the true meridian, certifying with every plat what was the variation at the time of running the lines thereon noted.

A register shall be appointed by Congress, for each of the states within which the said territory shall lie, who shall keep his office within the said State, be resident at it himself, and provide a seal for authenticating its acts. To him returns shall be made, by the several surveyors, on the last days of March and August in every year, of the plats of all lines measured and marked by them in the preceding half year, to be by him collated and reduced into a general map of the whole State for which he acts. He shall annually, to wit, on the first Monday in November of every year, deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the secretary of Congress, a copy of such portions of the said general map as shall have been formed, or further filled up, during the preceding year, retaining one in his own office for the use thereof. He shall have power to suspend any surveyor for negligence or malversation, making report thereof to Congress, or a committee of the states, that they may direct a proper enquiry.

Each register shall cause to be printed, under such devices, difficult of imitation, as he shall think best,   warrants, each of which shall give right to one lot of a mile square, described as before directed: and other warrants for each of the said states, which shall give right, each of them to one of the hundreds of ten miles square as before described: these warrants shall have blanks for names and dates; shall be numbered and signed by the register; sealed with the seal of his office; and shall be cut with indentures from a book, the margin of which shall be numbered in correspondence with the warrant cut therefrom, and shall be preserved in the office as a further check. The said warrants shall be deposited in the treasury of the United States, and the treasurer thereon debited with them. From thence they shall be sent in such numbers as the register issuing them shall direct, to the commissioner of the loan office for the United States in each of the states within the union; the treasurer countersigning them on parting therewith, and having a credit duly entered in his own account with the United States, and a debit against the loan officer to whom they are sent.

Any person chusing to become a purchaser of lands within the said territory, and paying to the treasurer or loan officer, the sum of dollars, shall receive in lieu thereof, one of the said smaller warrants entitling him to a lot, or paying dollars, shall receive in lieu thereof one of the said larger warrants, entitling him to a whole hundred within the State from which the warrant issued; the treasurer or loan officer inserting the name of the purchaser in the proper blank, filling up the date, and attesting the warrant by his own subscription. Loan office certificates reduced to their specie value by the scale of depreciation, or certificates of liquidated debts of the United States, shall be receivable for the said warrants in lieu of money; and evidences of military rights to lands, hereinafter to be described, shall be receivable instead of the price itself of so much land. These warrants shall pass as lands by descent or devise, but not by assignment nor by survivorship.

The owner of any warrant proceeding to locate the same, shall deliver it to the surveyor of the district, wherein his location is to be, describing to him the particular lot on which he places it, or the hundred, if it be a warrant for a hundred, by a designation of some point, either natural or artificial, within the said lot or hundred, so singular and certain as may be adapted to no other lot or hundred; or by reference to the position of the hundred, or number of the lot; which description the surveyor shall immediately enter in a book well bound, with the date of the entry, describing the warrant located thereon by its number, date, signatures and name of the original owner, and leaving no blank space or leaf between that and the preceding entry, nor any margin by its side. If the location be made before the lot or hundred be yet laid off by lines actually run and marked, the surveyor shall retain the warrant in his hands until the hundred, if it be for a hundred, or until all the lots of the hundred, if it be for a lot, shall be actually laid off by marked lines: and then, or at the time of the entry, if the lines were marked before the entry was made, having satisfied himself by proper evidence, or by his own inspection and examination, on what particular lot, or on what hundred, the location is, and that there has been no previous location on the same, he shall give to the party a certificate, describing the lot or hundred so specially as that it may be known from all others, by particular marks or circumstances, natural or artificial, by stating the order or position of the hundred, relatively to the boundaries of the State, and specifying the lot by its number: with which certificate he shall return the warrant also to the party. These being delivered to the register, and the warrant examined and found genuine by him, he shall give a receipt for the same, and in due time proceed to execute a grant of the land in the following form: "A. B. register of the land office of the United States, within the State of   to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Know ye, that for good consideration, there is granted by the United States of America, unto C. D. a certain lot [or hundred of land as the case shall be, describing it from the certificate] within the said State of   to have and to hold the said lot [or hundred] of land with its appurtenances, to him the said C. D. and his heirs forever. In witness whereof, the said A. B. register of the land office of the said State, hath hereunto set his hand, and caused the seal of his office to be affixed, this   day of   in the year   and of the independence of the United States the   " which grant shall be entered of record at full length, in good well bound books to be provided for that purpose, at the expence of the United States, and kept by the register; and being so entered, shall be certified to have been registered, and then be delivered to the party, or his order. Different lots, adjoining side by side, within the same hundred, may be included and passed by the same grant; but separate lots, and lots in different hundreds, as also different hundreds, shall be passed by different grants. No fractions of a lot shall be granted, unless where such fractions are occasioned by the boundary of the State, or of the Indian conveyance. Until a temporary government shall be so established in any State, according to the resolutions of Congress of April 1784, the lands therein shall pass in descent and dower, according to the customs known in the common law, by the name of gavelkind; and shall be transferable by deed or will proved by two witnesses. But so soon as a temporary government shall be so established, they shall become subject to the laws of the State, and shall never after, in any case, revert to the United States. Where a grant shall be made out to the heir or devisee of the person in whose name the warrant was originally issued, he shall be named in the said grant as heir or devisee.

For preventing hasty and surreptitious titles, the register shall execute no grant for lands until the warrant and certificate delivered him for the same shall have remained in his office months: at any time within which period, any person claiming the same lands under a prior location, shall be at liberty to enter a caveat, with the register, against the execution of any grant to the other, setting forth in the entry, a copy of the location under which himself claims. The register shall thereupon issue a summons reciting the entry made with him, and calling the defendant to appear, at a certain time and place, in defence of his right; which summons being served, and the parties appearing, he shall refer the decision to three arbitrators to be chosen by them, or if they cannot agree, then to three intelligent, honest and indifferent persons to be named by himself; which arbitrators being first sworn to do justice between the parties, according to the best of their knowledge and abilities, by the register, who is hereby authorised to administer such oath, shall proceed thereon, at such times and places as they shall appoint, giving notice thereof to the parties, and their award being rendered, the register shall execute a grant to the plaintiff or defendant, conformably therewith. The party whose location is annulled, shall be authorised to receive again his warrant, and to locate it on other lands. If the defendant being summoned, or the plaintiff fails to appear, by himself or another, before the register, on the day appointed, the register may give a further day, or in his discretion may proceed on the evidence before him, to execute a grant to the party having the right. If the defendant fails to appear, and there be no sufficient proof that the summons has been served, the register shall issue a new summons, unless it shall be proved that he hath been sought at the usual place of his dwelling, and hath not been found, in which case the summons shall be advertised three times in some gazette of the State wherein he then resides, or last was known to reside, giving a new day of appearance, which shall not be within less than months after the date of the third publication, and on his failing to appear at that day, the register shall proceed to decision. But in case of a decision against the defendant, where there was no actual service of the summons, he shall be allowed at any time within one year after such decision, a re-hearing before arbitrators, to be appointed and qualified as directed in the case of an appearance; but on such re-hearing, the mere right alone shall be tried.

The register, together with the map before directed to be delivered annually to the secretary of Congress, shall report a calendar of all grants executed by him; stating, in different columns thereof, the date, grantee, quantity, how much of that was for military service, the hundred and lot.

The monies arising from the sale of warrants shall be applied to the sinking such part of the principal of the national debt as Congress shall, from time to time, direct, and to no other purpose whatsoever.

The register, before he enters on the duties of his office, shall give such bond and security for the faithful discharge thereof, as Congress, or the Committee of the States, shall approve; and shall be entitled to receive, for the execution of every grant, dollars, for every lot the same shall contain, or dollars, if it be for a whole hundred: which shall be paid at the time he receives the warrant and certificate, and shall be deemed satisfaction for all the services and expences of his office, except the purchase of books for registering grants, and of the seal of his office.

Every surveyor shall also, before he enters on the duties of his office, give such bond and security for the faithful discharge thereof, as Congress, or the Committee of the States, shall approve; and shall be entitled to receive, for every lot located with him, dollars, and dollars for a whole hundred; which shall be paid at the time of location, and shall be deemed satisfaction for all the services and expences of his office. But where he shall have admitted more locations than one on the same land, he shall restore the fees received from the party whose location shall be set aside.

A surveyor desiring to locate land for himself, shall make such location with the register.

And whereas Congress, by their resolutions of September 16, 1776, and August 12, 1780, stipulated grants of land to the officers and soldiers who should engage in the service of the United States, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such officers and soldiers as should be slain by the enemy, in the following proportions, to wit: To a major-general, 1100 acres; to a brigadier, 850; to a colonel, 500; to a lieutenant-colonel, 450; to a major, 400; to a captain, 300; to a lieutenant, 200; to an ensign, 150, and to a non-commissioned officer or soldier, 100: for complying therefore with such stipulation, and for ascertaining the evidence of rights accruing under the same, which shall be receivable instead of money, it is ordained, that the evidence to be required from commissioned officers, shall be a certificate from the war office of their rank and continuance in service to the end of the war; from non-commissioned officers and soldiers, a certificate from the captain of their company countersigned by the officer who commanded their regiment at the time of their discharge, that they were inlisted into the service of the United States during the war, and continued therein to the close of it, to wit: to the day of 1783, and from the representatives of such officers and soldiers as were slain by the enemy, a certificate from the same authority, of the rank or term of inlistment of the deceased, and that he was slain by the enemy, together with satisfactory affidavits that they are his representatives; which evidences shall be receivable by the loan officers of the United States, in the State to the line of which he belonged, or by the treasurer if he belonged to the line of no State: and on the warrant issued, shall be an endorsement, signed by the treasurer or loan officer, declaring the proportion thereof which was satisfied by military service; and in the same proportion shall all fees be abated to which that warrant would otherwise be subject. The proceedings on it, in all other respects, shall be the same as on a warrant issued wholly for money.

Saving and confirming always, to all officers and soldiers entitled to lands on the northern side of the Ohio, by donation or bounty from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to all persons claiming under them, all rights to which they are so entitled by the laws of the said

State, and the acts of Congress accepting the cession of western territory from the said States.

On the question, shall this be taken into consideration the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [David] Howell,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	*
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no
Dana,	no	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	div.
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	no	no
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	no	no
Beatty,	no	
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	no	no
Montgomery,	no	
Hand,	no	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	no	no
Chase,	no	
Virginia,		
Mr. Mercer,	ay	div.
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	no	*

So the question was lost.

The title of the second report called for, being read, viz.

"Report of Mr. [Richard] Beresford, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase, Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight and Mr. [Jacob] Read, on Indian affairs in the southern department," which is in the words following:

The Committee consisting of M^r [Richard] Beresford, M^r [Thomas] Jefferson, M^r [Jeremiah Townley] Chase, M^r [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, and M^r [Jacob] Read, appointed to take into consideration the State of Indian affairs in the Southern department, beg leave to Report,

That a Report was made upon Indian Affairs in the northern and middle Departments, and being amended was agreed to on the 15th of Octr 1783. That, as many of the Principles contained in that Report will apply with equal propriety to the Southern Department, and the sense of Congress was then expressed, the Committee propose, so often as the circumstances agree, to adopt them in the present. That the Department consigned to their particular consideration extends as it is defined by an Act of Congress of July 12th 1775, so far northward as to include the Cherokees, and so far southward as to include all the other Southern Tribes—That all claims made by So Carolina and Georgia upon the Indians have been satisfied—That in a conference with a Deputation of Indians held in Charleston South Carolina in Decr 1782 by Governor Mathews, there appeared in them a pacific disposition; and from the circumstances in which our treaty with Great Britain has left the hostile Indians, the same disposition may be supposed to be universal among them. That the preservation thereof is an object greatly desirable; for though a weak, they are a destructive Foe; and in a contest with them much may be lost, but nothing won which will be useful to us, or which will not be more useful when it will be more easily won. That if an Indian war should be rekindled, repeated victories might produce the retreat of the Indians, but could not prevent them from regaining possession of some of the distant Territory of the United States; that while such temporary expulsions could only be effected at a great charge, they could not be maintained but by numerous Garrisons and an expensive Peace Establishment. That even if the Indians could be totally expelled, the policy of reducing them to such an extremity is deemed questionable; for in case of any future rupture with Great Britain they would thereby become an useful ally to that Power, and a formidable Enemy to the United States. That it is highly fortunate that in the Southern Department no subject of contention threatens us when we are but little prepared to contend. Yet how long that may continue which at present seems to be in some degree the effect of disappointment and despair it cannot now be ascertained, and it will probably depend upon the Measures which the occasion may suggest. That Generosity, Clemency and Mercy ought to appear in the Transactions of the Grand Council of the United States with a people who live in a lamentable state of ignorance and error; and that these will perhaps be found ultimately to compose the best Policy. That so often as the Interests of both Parties can be made to accord, mutual advantage ought to be attempted; and that nothing else can form so solid and durable a foundation for harmony and peace. That Small benefits should be cheerfully resigned for the probable attainment of those which are important; more especially as it cannot be presumed the Indians will in their present circumstances venture upon any extravagant demands.

That Congress, however desirous they may be to gratify their better feelings in acts of humanity, will not be warranted in advancing beyond the essential interests of their constituents; and furthermore generosity becomes bankrupt and frustrates its own designs by prodigal bounty. That the States which are inhabited by the Indians in the southern department have in common with the rest of the United States, pledged themselves for the payment of the publick debts; that Justice, Gratitude, and good Policy, direct them to make ample provision more especially for their own quota of the virtuous army whose patient courage has so eminently conduced to the establishment of their liberty and independence; that it is become necessary by the increase of domestick population and emigrations from abroad to provide speedily for the settlement of their respective territories, and their finances do not admit of any considerable expenditure to extinguish the Indian claims upon such lands: the Committee are therefore of opinion that the Indians in the Southern department should be prevailed upon to ascertain and establish between the United States and themselves such lines of property, and to make such cessions of uncultivated land to the States they inhabit respectively as may be convenient to those nations and commensurate to the present and approaching necessities of those States. Nor in the opinion of the Committee, can the Indians make any reasonable objection against the measures recommended. They were themselves aggressors in the war, without even a pretence of provocation, and the barbarities which attend their mode of warfare are too shocking and of too great notoriety to be here recited. These circumstances are sufficient to manifest the obligation they are under to make atonement for their outrages, and a reasonable compensation for the expences and alarms to which they have exposed their unoffending neighbours, and they possess no other means to do this act of justice than by a compliance with the proposed terms.

The Committee are of opinion that care should be taken neither to yield nor require too much; to accommodate the Indians as far as the publick good will admit, and to avoid the hazard of a war the expences of which may exceed the value of the acquisition sought for; but it is supposed that when they shall have been informed of the damages which our citizens have sustained from their irruptions and those of their British Ally all unreasonable expectations will be suppressed, Whereupon,

Resolved, That Conventions be held with the Indians residing in the southern department who have taken up arms against the United States, for the purpose of receiving them into the favour of the United States, and of establishing boundary lines of property for separating and dividing the settlements of the citizens of the United States from the Indian villages and hunting grounds, and thereby extinguishing as far as possible all occasion for future animosity, disquiet and contention. That First, and as a preliminary, it shall be required, that all prisoners of whatever age or sex among the Indians, and all fugitive and other slaves shall be delivered up.

Secondly, That the Indians be informed that after a contest of eight years for the sovereignty of this country, Great Britain has relinquished to the United States all claim to the country within the limits described by the second article of the definitive treaty between the United States and the King of Great Britain signed on the third day of September in the year 1783, that is to say (here insert the limits).

Thirdly. That as the Indians in contempt of every principle of justice and humanity regardless of the friendly temper and designs of the United States, and in defiance of their power or resentment, were determined to join their arms to those of Great Britain and to share her fortunes, so consequently by a less generous people than Americans they might be compelled to retire to the most distant parts of the Continent. But as we prefer clemency to rigour, as we persuade ourselves that their eyes are open to their error, and that they have found by fatal experience that their true interest and safety must depend upon our friendship, as the country is large enough to maintain and support us all, and as we are disposed to be Kind to them, to supply their wants, and to partake of their trade; we from these considerations and from motives of compassion, draw a veil over what is past, and will establish a boundary line between us and them beyond which we will restrain our citizens from hunting and settling, and within which the Indians shall not come but for the purposes of trading, treating, or other business equally unexceptionable. That Congress are desirous that the most friendly intercourse may subsist between us, and that all commercial transactions may be conducted upon the most equitable principles, and such as may equally promote the interests of both parties. But that they take warning of the perils of a fresh rupture. That a second injury is more grievous than the first.

That an offence against one State will be resented by the whole, That their friends have deserted them, and that our arms obliged them to do so, that without their friends they must be immediately overwhelmed. That we also have friends who never deceived us, but on the contrary enabled us to capture an army the loss of which ruined the British cause in America; that their friends in the late treaty of peace left them to the mercy of their enemies, having made no stipulation in their favour, yet that we are not disposed to take advantage of their distress; that men ought to be preferred who are merciful as enemies to men who are treacherous as friends.

Fourthly. The Commissioners which shall be appointed to treat with these Indians are instructed to use their own discretion in establishing between the United States and the several nations of Indians the most advantageous boundary lines to which they can be induced to accede, unless they shall hereafter be otherwise directed by Congress.

Fifthly. The Commissioners are instructed to treat with the Indian Nations collectively or at different times and places as they shall find most conducive to the interest of the United States, care being taken to avert the mischiefs which may arise from united councils or powerful combinations among the Indians, and to encourage in them every disposition to act independently.

Sixthly. The Commissioners are instructed not to admit into a treaty with the Indians or suffer to be in any manner connected with it, any article, stipulation or condition whatsoever making or confirming or tending to make or confirm to any individual or individuals any grant or grants of land whether real or pretended, within the bounds of the United States as before described, moreover that no treaty which may have been concluded with the Indians by any State or States and not by the United States in Congress assembled, for obtaining land or for any other purpose, shall be confirmed by the Treaty or treaties now proposed to be held, unless the said treaties which may have been concluded by such State or States appear manifestly and perfectly consistent with the design of the Treaties now proposed to be held.

Seventhly. The Commissioners are instructed to take security from the Indians for the performance of their engagements if they shall find this measure practicable.

Eighthly. The Commissioners are instructed to warn all persons not properly authorised from trading with the Indians. That the Commissioners do not allow the Indian Traders to take advantage of the intoxication of the Indians, or to wrong them in any manner in their dealings, and in order that the Traders may be kept under the controul of the Commissioners and that their fidelity may be insured and these evils may be prevented, the Commissioners are instructed to put them under the obligation of a bond with good and sufficient security.

Ninthly. The Commissioners are instructed to encourage the Indians to give intelligence of any mischeivous designs which may be concerted in any neighbouring Tribe against the United States, thus will evil be prevented in the first instance, and the strength of the Indians be divided and diminished by violated faith should any Tribe, at present friendly to us, become in future hostile, and threaten an invasion. That the Commissioners take proper steps for obtaining and transmitting such intelligence with all possible dispatch.

Tenthly. That it be recommended to the Executive of the State of South Carolina to furnish the Commissioners which shall be appointed to treat with the Indians in the Southern Department with all such Goods and sums of money as may be necessary at the proposed Treaty or Treaties and fully to carry into effect the views of the United States in Congress assembled: and that a credit shall be allowed to the said State for the amount of such advances as part of the Quota of the said State on any of the Requisitions of Congress against the said State now unsatisfied. But if the State of South Carolina should fail to grant the supplies above mentioned that the Superintendant of Finance be directed to purchase Goods of such kinds as are most useful and acceptable to the Indians to the amount of Dollars. And that the Goods or sums of money which may be furnished by the Executive of South Carolina or the Superintendant of Finance, be deposited in the hands of the Commissioners, they having previously appointed an Agent, subject to their orders, to take them under his care. That the Commissioners make the usual presents to the Indians at their first interview. That the rest of the Goods be disposed of at such prices as shall appear to the Commissioners prudent and convenient.

Eleventhly. That the Commissioners use such arguments as shall appear to them most likely to prevail with the Indians to enter into the society of the Citizens of the United States, and that they make them acquainted with such Laws as exist in the different States, particularly those in their vicinity, for the encouragement of new settlers.

The Committee are moreover of opinion that Commissioners not exceeding in number with Salaries of Dollars per day each, exclusive of their expenses, be immediately appointed with instructions to form a Treaty or Treaties with the Indians in the Southern Department upon the principles contained in the foregoing Report so far as shall be consistent with the Articles of Confederation.

The Committee also think it advisable that Congress recommend that Laws be passed for preventing persons not authorised by Congress from trading with the Indians; also for the security of the Indians, and the punishment of those who shall invade them, or in any manner treat them unjustly and thereby endanger the tranquility of the United States; also to adapt their Laws as much as convenient to the purpose of inducing the Indians to become citizens.

The Committee upon Indian Affairs in the Southern Department have also been directed to take under consideration several Papers consisting of a Letter from General Wilkinson to the President dated Falls of Ohio Jan. 17, 1784; a letter from Mr J. Donne to Genl Wilkinson of the same Date; a Talk of five Chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation of Indians dated Chuck-ul-issah July 20th, 1783, addressed to the President, and forwarded by Mr Donne through Genl Wilkinson; also a copy of the commission of Captain Colbert (taken from the Original by Mr Donne) under which he served the King of Great Britain in the late war, and commanded a volunteer corps of white men and Southern Indians, also forwarded by Mr Donne. The Committee have attentively perused these Papers, and from the representations they contain, have agreed to report their opinion as follows—

That long before the Declaration of Peace with Great Britain and as early as the beginning of the Year 1782, the Chickasaw Nation of Indians made overtures for a Peace with the United States, but before a Messenger despatched by General Clark to assist in concluding the same, could reach their country; the hunting season had arrived, and the

Chiefs were abroad; but that the most friendly disposition prevailed throughout the Nation; and that they have remained in this disposition ever since. That attempts have been made by the Spaniards to attach them to their interests, but they prefer a connexion with us, and have formed a resolution to accept of no advantages which have been offered to them unless they shall be driven to that resource by our neglect, and are now anxiously waiting the result of their application to Congress. That they have expelled out of their Nation all those who were on the Misisissippi under Colbert lest their presence should be offensive to the Americans. That although long since desirous of Peace, they have been confused and perplexed with contradictory accounts and knew not where they should make their application, whether to any State in their vicinity or to Congress. That they were finally determined by the advice of Mr J. Donne at this time or heretofore an Officer of the State of Virginia, (and as the Committee believes) in the Indian Department; and that they promised to confide in the answer he should return them. That during the British Government the Indian Nations were accustomed to have a Commissary residing among them who made known their wants, studied their ruling passions, and became so useful and necessary to them, that he was styled the *beloved Man*. That by his influence it was easy to excite them to war or compose them to Peace. That he could easily preclude or expel from among them characters unfriendly to his designs. That he acted frequently as a magistrate in settling disputes among the Indians, and also among the white residents; and from his importance with both these Parties may be supposed to have been often usefully employed as a mediator between them. That he prevented Innovations on the established Trade of the Indians; and by keeping a watchful eye over their conduct, withheld them from the pursuit of new objects, and secured their attachment to his own cause. That such a person is peculiarly necessary at this time among the Chickesaws, they having made it an earnest request, being very importunate for supplies, particularly ammunition and clothing, being alarmed and exasperated by the menaces of mischievous Persons who threaten to take possession of their Country, and being exposed to the arts of the Spaniards and the temptations of their proferred Trade. That Captain James Colbert possesses considerable influence over the Chickesaws, Choctaws and Creeks; and although by his activity against the Spaniards during the late war he had made himself very obnoxious to them, yet they have been so sensible of his importance as to make proposals to him; that he has thought proper to decline the same, hoping to meet with a favorable reception from the Americans; that ever since the Peace, he has been principally instrumental in baffling the Spaniards in their attempts to tamper with the Chickesaws, and in preserving order and steadiness among the Indians, and promises to employ all his interest for these purposes until he shall be informed of the destiny which awaits him. That he is disposed to enter into the employment of the United States, urging "that his having served his Master faithfully ought not to be brought in evidence against him, and that he was now deserted by that Master." That should the good offices of this man be rejected, some disadvantage and danger are to be apprehended from his despair. That it will therefore be prudent to secure him to our Party by a subordinate Office in the Indian Department. That Mr. Donne who has furnished Congress with the late communications appears to have obtained a considerable insight into Indian Affairs, and from the character he seems to have sustained is worthy of the notice of Congress. That it is expedient that a Talk be forthwith returned by Congress in answer to the Talk lately received from five Chiefs of the Chickesaw Nation.

Whereupon the Committee have come to the following Resolutions;

First. That Superintendants of Indian Affairs be immediately appointed, not exceeding   in number, with Salaries of   Dollars each, to reside at such places as shall be named by the Commissioners appointed or to be appointed for settling a Peace with the Indians, in the Department to which each Superintendant may respectively belong, and that they be subject to such orders and regulations as shall be framed and agreed to by the said Commissioners in their respective Departments until the further pleasure of Congress be known. Moreover that the Superintendant of Indian Affairs in the District inhabited by the Chickesaws be, and he is hereby directed, to employ M^r James Colbert in the service of the United States in the Indian Department in such manner as shall best promote the honor and interest of the same.

Secondly. Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a Talk in answer to the Talk lately received from five Chiefs of the Chickesaw Nation.[1]

On the question, shall this be taken into consideration the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Jacob] Read,

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[1] This report, in the writing of Richard Beresford, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folios 219–227. The indorsement states that it was delivered April 19, 1784, and read. Thursday next assigned for its consideration. Postponed to Wednesday, December 15, 1784, and on that date referred to Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, Mr. [William] Houstown, Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [Samuel] Holten.

James Wilkinson's letter of January 19 also referred to this committee is in No. 78, XXIV, folio 431.

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	*
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no
Dana,	no	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	div.
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	ay	ay
Beatty,	ay	
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
Chase,	at	
Virginia,		
Mr. Mercer,	ay	ay
Lee,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	*

So the question was lost.

The third report called for was taken up, viz.

A report of the grand committee, consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson, Mr. [Jonathan] Blanchard, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [David] Howell, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Charles] De Witt, Mr. [Samuel] Dick, Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Thomas] Stone, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [Jacob] Read, to whom was referred the motion of the delegates for Massachusetts, to revise the institution of the treasury department, and report such alterations as they may think necessary; which report is in the words following:

The Committee are of Opinion, that the United States have derived very great advantages from the arrangement and management of their finances, under the administration of the honorable Robert Morris, as Superintendant thereof: but as he has signified his resolution to retire from the said

Office, your Committee are of Opinion, that it will be expedient to make seasonable provision for such event: And for preventing the inconveniencies that may attend the filling the said office when vacancies happen, by persons unexperienced in the business thereof, and for securing the general confidence of the states in the administration of the business of the treasury, that it will be proper to vest the authorities of the said office in a board of commissioners: and therefore the committee submit to Congress the following ordinance: Here follows the Ordinance for putting the department of finance into commission, as entered on the journal of the 27th instant.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare an Ordinance for making the necessary alterations in the arrangement of the treasury department, and for more particularly defining the powers of the Board of Treasury.[1]

A motion was made by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, seconded by Mr. [Jacob] Read, to postpone the said report, in order to consider the proper means of securing the western posts, and protecting the Commissioners in negotiating treaties with the Indians.

And on the question to postpone for the purpose abovementioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson,

New Hampshire,			*Rhode Island,*		
Mr. Foster,	no	no	Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Blanchard,	no		Howell,	no	
Massachusetts,			*Connecticut,*		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no	Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Dana,	no		Wadsworth,	no	
Partridge,	ay				

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[1] This report, in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 31, folio 247. A copy of the resolution, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is on folio 253^a. A draft of the report, in the writing of Roger Sherman, is on folio 253.

New York,			
	Mr. De Witt,	ay	div.
	Paine,	no	
New Jersey,			
	Mr. Stevens,	ay	ay
	Beatty,	ay	
	Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,			
	Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
	Montgomery,	ay	
	Hand,	ay	
Maryland,			
	Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
	Chase,	ay	
Virginia,			
	Mr. Mercer,	ay	ay
	Lee,	ay	
	Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,			
	Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
	Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,			
	Mr. Read,	ay	*
	~~Beresford,~~	~~ay~~	

So the question was lost.

Congress took into consideration the "Ordinance for putting the department of finance into commission;" and the following clause being under debate:

That each of the said commissioners shall be allowed an Annual Salary of dollars:

A motion was made by Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, to fill the blank with "three thousand six hundred:" And on the question to agree to this sum, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Arthur] Lee,

New Hampshire,			
	Mr. Foster,	no	no
	Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,			
	Mr. Gerry,	no	no
	Dana,	no	
	Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,			
	Mr. Ellery,	no	no
	Howell,	no	
Connecticut,			
	Mr. Sherman,	no	no
	Wadsworth,	no	
New York,			
	Mr. De Witt,	no	no
	Paine,	no	
New Jersey,			
	Mr. Stevens,	no	no
	Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,			
	Mr. Mifflin,	no	no
	Montgomery,	no	
	Hand,	no	
Maryland,			
	Mr. Stone,	no	no
	Chase,	no	

Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it passed in the negative.

A motion was made by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, seconded by Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, to fill the blank with "two thousand nine hundred and fifty:" And on the question to agree to this, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Thomas] Stone,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	div.
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	no	no
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	no	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by Mr. [Roger] Sherman,

Resolved, That the last vote be reconsidered; and instead of two thousand nine hundred and fifty, be inserted two thousand five hundred.

The ordinance being amended and read a second time, ordered that it be read a third time.

The Ordinance as amended, being read a third time, on the question to agree to the same, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	ay
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	div.
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	ay	ay
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. Stone,	ay	ay
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Lee,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	no	no
Beresford,	no	

So it was resolved in the Affirmative, and the Ordinance passed as follows:

An Ordinance for putting the department of finance into Commission.

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, That a board consisting of three Commissioners to be appointed by Congress, be instituted, to superintend the treasury and manage the finances of the United States, which shall be stiled, *The Board of Treasury*.

That the said Commissioners, or any two of them, shall have Authority to exercise all the powers vested in the

Superintendant of finance, by the act of Congress of the seventh day of February, 1781, or by any subsequent acts.

That the said Board shall have authority to provide a convenient office, and employ as many clerks therein as they shall find necessary, reporting their names and appointments, from time to time, to Congress, or to the Committee of the States in the recess of Congress.

That the said commissioners and clerks, previous to entering on the duties of their several offices, shall take and subscribe the oath of fidelity to the United States, and also an oath to the due execution of the duties of their respective offices; certificates of which several oaths shall be filed with the Secretary of the United States in Congress assembled.

That all the books and papers pertaining to the office of finance, shall be lodged in the Office of the said Board of Treasury.

That on the tenth day of November next, or sooner, if the Superintendant of finance, agreeable to his expectation, shall quit the office, the said Board, being formed, shall proceed to business.

That each of the said commissioners shall be allowed an Annual salary of two thousand five hundred dollars.

That each clerk employed in the said office, shall receive such salary as the said Board shall allow, not exceeding five hundred dollars per annum; the said salaries to commence at the time that the said officers shall enter on the duties of their Office.

That no person to be appointed, by virtue of this Ordinance, a commissioner of the treasury of the United States, shall be permitted to be engaged, either directly or indirectly, in any trade or commerce whatsoever, on pain of forfeiting his Office as a commissioner.

That the said commission shall continue in force for three years, unless sooner revoked by the United States in Congress assembled.[1] Done, &c.

Ordered, That Monday next be assigned for appointing commissioners to constitute the Board of Treasury.

The Committee [Mr. Elbridge Gerry, Mr. Francis Dana and Mr. David Howell] to whom was referred a letter from the Superintendant of Finance of the 19th instant, enclosing an extract of a letter of the 9th of March last from the Marquis de la Fayette, and the copy of a letter of the 8th of March to the Marquis from Monsieur de Colonne submit the following report.

Resolved, That a copy of the letters abovementioned and of one of the 16th of April last from the Superintendant of Finance, with a copy of all the papers mentioned therein, and of the proceedings of Congress thereon, the 3rd inst, be transmitted to Messrs Adams, Franklin and Jefferson, to assist them in their Commercial Negotiations.[2]

The Committee of the week [Mr. Richard Beresford, Mr. John Stevens and Mr. John Montgomery] report that the petition of agreed to. Florat de Florimont late a Captain in the Continental Service but not in the line of any State praying that he may be allowed commutation for half pay lie on the table.

~~On the petition of Benjn. Bird praying a renewal of sundry loan office certificates issued by Nathl. Appleton Commissioner of the loan office in the State of Massachusetts bearing date of 27th of April,~~ not agreed to. ~~1778, as it appears by the said Appleton's certificate dated 3d May, 1784, and that on the 27th April, 1778; the said Benjamin lost the said certificates with sundry other papers and altho' he did advertise them in sundry newspapers, he has not recovered them, the Committee offer the following resolve.~~

~~*Resolved,* That the Superintendant of Finance be directed to take order agreeable to a resolve of Congress passed the 10th day of May 1780.~~[3]

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[1] The draft of this ordinance with the amendments as indicated on May 27 is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 31, folio 247.

[2] This report, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 19, IV, folio 435. The indorsement states that it was read on this day. The letter of the Superintendent of Finance is in No. 137, III, folio 639.

[3] This report, in the writing of ———— is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 32, folio 561. The indorsement states that it was made on this day.

The Committee of the week [Mr. Richard Beresford, Mr. John Stevens and Mr. John Montgomery] to whom was referred a petition of Nathan Fuller late Major in a regiment of the United States commanded by William Bond, Esq., deceased, praying that the said regiment may receive pay and back rations, notwithstanding the resolve of Congress, which directed that all claims up to the last day of December, 1776, should not be allowed, unless exhibited before the first of June 1779, and urging that the deaths of the Colonel and Lieut. Colonel of the Regiment and the consequent derangement of their papers and the supposition that the accounts had been settled and the money lost at the fall of Col. Alden in action, had prevented an earlier application, Report

That the said petition be read in Congress.[1]

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present as before.

Two reports being called for, which were both orders of the day, and the title of the first called for being read, viz. "report of Grand Committee, consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Stone, Mr. [Jonathan] Blanchard, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [David] Howell, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Charles] De Witt, Mr. [Charles] Dick, Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [Jacob] Read, on a letter of 29 April, from the Superintendant of finance, respecting Loan Offices," which is in the words following:

"The grand committee, to whom was referred a letter from the Superintendant of finance, of the 29 of April last, are of Opinion that it will be necessary to continue the Continental loan Offices in the several states, for the purpose of paying the monies borrowed in the said offices, and the annual interest thereon, pursuant to the act of Congress of the 3d day of October, 1776. That all monies collected by the several states, for the United States, may likewise be paid into that office, and the other receivers be discontinued. The Committee thereupon submit the following resolves:

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[1] This report, in the writing of Richard Beresford, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 565. The indorsement indicates that it was made May —, 1784.

That from and after the first day of August next, all monies collected in the several states for the use of the United States shall be paid into the continental loan Office, in said states respectively; and all other receivers of such monies shall be discontinued. That loan officers shall be appointed by the legislatures, or in their recess, or by their consent, by the supreme executives of the states respectively; but when so appointed, shall be amenable to and removeable by the United States in Congress assembled, or such officer or board as shall have the management of the finances of the United States. That no person shall be appointed to such office, who shall have neglected or refused to adjust his public accounts, or to pay the balance due thereon to the United States. That the said loan Officers respectively be entitled to receive per cent. on all monies that shall be brought into their respective loan Offices, in lieu of all claims and demands for transacting the business of said Offices. That the receivers of continental taxes who have been appointed in the several states by the Superintendant of finance, shall receive for their services a commission on the moneys by them actually received for the United States, at the rates heretofore fixed by the said Superintendant of finance. That with respect to the receipts taken by the loan officer in Connecticut, for interest by him paid on loan office certificates, it would have been more regular to have inserted the number of the certificates, but as the sum of money paid was endorsed on the certificates, at the time of payment, the committee are of opinion, that the United States are secured against any further demand for the interest paid; and that said receipts may be admitted as vouchers of the payment, in settling the accounts of the loan Office."

May 30th 1782

Saghyatonghsera | Raksi:

Waggena | Saghyadon | Nok oni |
Aghsengh | Negongh | Ne Bible
Agwagh | Raktsi Yawedowanengh
Wakatshennonni | Dsewaghsgyena
wase | Dewakadonghwenjonegh | Ne
Raghyatonghsera | Togenghdi | Nok nene
Waghsiron | Onen | Yewakyadon | Ska=
nyadaradighgowagh | Dserati deron=
Ratitsighenghsdatsighgowagh | Ne=
Gennegh Waghsiron | entyeghhawe
Nene Raghyatonghsera shonagh |
Niyawen | Kati Raktsi onktogen=
se | Dsiyesaghyaton | Ne | Skanyatara=
tigh | Nok nene | Shoriwese | Kada=
roghgon | Kennonwe & Nighten nagerathes

Negenneght | Waghsiron | Yenghthagwatho |
sane | Oghniagara Hagatshennonni | De=
genghsge | Ahagwatho Dsiyagwenderon
Kanyengeghhaga | Etho | raktsi |

Onen | Oya | Detkatadight |
Doka | haaghsgweni | Aaghsgon |
Hennitsgwaragh | Wagenaghs
gwayen | Yagoghsadenghs | Asigenght | 22
Yaghdewagyen | Noghwisda |
Ne Sigh | haaknninon | Hennits
gwaghragh | Agwagh | Wagoyenniten
den | Raktsi | Goragh | Shotsijowane |
Waatgwanonghweraton | Agwagh ha
gwegon | Eghtshidewaniha | Onishoriwese |
Ayawen | Sgennen Agwegongh thahetyonni
ge Etho | Raktsi | David 21
Seragaghte

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

Translation of a letter in Mohawk on page 27,
Vol. 4, Claus Papers.

May 30th 1784.

Your paper (letter), my elder brother.

I received your writing (letter), and the three 'holy writing' (Holy Bible). Very great was my joy, elder brother, for the help you have thus given me. I want the 'holy writing'. And I wish to thank you also for telling me that you have written across the big sea to the residence of the bishops ('very great ministers) for the books. They will bring I am sure.

With regard to 'Sho ri we se' (Rev. John Stuart), who is to reside at Cataroqui and whom you say, is to visit Niagara, I shall be very glad to have him visit us, Mohawks in our settlement. That is all for that, elder brother.

Let me add some other matter. I beg of you, elder Brother, to give me a saddle. I have a horse, but I have no money to buy a saddle for myself. If you could, I shall be very glad.

I salute you, my elder brother, Governor Claus, including our father, Sho ri we se (Rev. John Stuart). May you all be living in peace. This be all, elder brother.

David Oserageghte.

Translation of a letter, in Mohawk, on Page ;
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David Oserageghte

United States in Congreſs aſsembled

June 3. 1784

Whereas it is neceſsary to expedite the holding treaties with the Indian Nations which it appears cannot be done but under the protection of an armed force; therefore Reſolved that the ſecretary in the war office be and he is hereby directed to order three hundred men of the militia directed to be raiſed by the act of this day to be in readineſs to march when and to what place or places the Commiſsioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them ſhall direct; and that the commanding officer of the ſaid troops give ſuch protection to the commiſsioners as they or any two of them ſhall require; and that the ſaid ſecretary give Order to the different keepers of the public ſtores to furniſh to the order of the Commiſsioners or any two of them ſuch tents, marquees and other articles as the ſaid Commiſsioners ſhall think proper.

Reſolved That the ſuperintendant of finance take Order for purchaſing and tranſmitting the articles neceſsary for the Indian treaties according to a list hereunto annexed to ſuch places as the commiſsioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians or any two of them ſhall direct That he furniſh ſuch additional articles, not exceeding the sum of four thousand dollars, as the ſaid commiſsioners ſhall order; And that he contract with ſuch perſons as he may think proper to furniſh ſixty thousand rations for the Indian treaties, at ſuch places as the Commiſsioners or any two of them shall direct, together with such things as shall be necessary for the expences of the said Commissioners during the Negotiation

Resolved that the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians or any two of them being a majority of those present be empowered to do the business of the Commission, and to appoint a secretary, messengers, interpreters, store keepers and such artificers as they may find necessary and to agree with them for their pay for which they shall draw warrants on the treasury.

Chas Thomson secy.

THE CONNECTICUT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

12. On a letter of the 19 April, 1784, from M^{r} [Edward] Hand praying for an allowance for extra services.

13. On a memorial from John Ross, praying that his accts. may be audited and settled with several papers relating thereto.

14. On a letter from M^{r} A. Lee requesting a compensation for his services as corresponding agent.

15. On M^{r} Dumas's affairs.

That the reports on File No. 3, require no consideration, subsequent acts of Congress, time, and other circumstances rendering it unnecessary to act on them, vizt.

1. On the measures to be adopted for taking possession of the Frontier Posts.

2. On a letter of the 3rd Jany. 1784 respecting the disposition of the troops and stores, furnishing provisions Clothing &c.

3. On a letter of the 13th Dec. 1783. from Jos. Reed Esq. desiring testimonials of his conduct.

4. On the petition of Bodo Otto praying for an advance of money on his commutation &c.

5. On a letter from President Dickinson respecting the Boundary between Virginia and Pennsylvania.[1]

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1784.

Congress assembled: Present, eleven states as yesterday.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Samuel] Hardy and Mr. [James] Monroe, to whom was referred a motion of Mr. Dana,

Resolved, That the ministers plenipotentiary of the United States for negotiating commercial treaties with foreign powers be and they are hereby instructed, in any negotiations they may enter upon with the court of Spain, not to relinquish or cede, in any event whatsoever, the right of the citizens of these United States to the free navigation of the river Mississippi from its source to the ocean.[1]

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 23, folio 203. It is undated, but belongs to this period. See *ante*, May 17.

Ordered, That the secretary prepare a commission or commissions to Messrs. Adams, Franklin and Jefferson, or a majority of them to make supplementary treaties of commerce with France, the United Netherlands, and Sweden.[2]

The committee, consisting of Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [James] McHenry, Mr. [James] Monroe and Mr. [Samuel] Dick, to whom was referred a motion of Mr. [Jacob] Read, having reported, and the report being taken into consideration, being as follows:

Whereas a body of troops to consist of seven hundred non-commissioned officers and privates, properly officered, are immediately and indispensably necessary for securing and protecting the northwestern frontiers of the United States, and their Indian friends and allies, and for garrisoning the posts soon to be evacuated by the troops of his britannic Majesty: *Resolved*, That it be, and it is hereby recommended to the states hereafter named, and as most conveniently situated, to furnish forthwith from their Militia, 700 men to serve for 12 months, unless sooner discharged, in the following proportions, viz. Connecticut, 165; New-York, 165; New-Jersey, 110; Pensylvania, 260; making in the whole 700.

Resolved, That the Secretary at War take order for forming the said troops when assembled, into one regiment, to consist of eight companies of infantry, and two of artillery, arming and equipping them in a soldier-like manner: and that he be authorised to direct their destination and operations, subject to the order of Congress, and of the Committee of the states in the recess of Congress.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 28, folio 189.

[2] This resolution and order were entered only in the Manuscript Secret Journal, Foreign Affairs, in Secret Journal, No. 4, and in Secret Journal, No. 6, Vol. III.

Resolved, That the pay, subsistence and rations of the officers and men shall be the same as has been heretofore allowed to the troops of the United States, and that each officer and soldier shall receive one month's pay after they are embodied, before their march.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several states, to employ such officers of their late lines of the continental army, as may be willing to enter into the present service.

Resolved, That the staff and commissioned officers of the said troops consist of the following, and be furnished by the several states hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, one lieutenant-colonel commandant from Pensylvania, two majors, one from Connecticut, and one from New-York, each major to command a company; eight captains from the several states furnishing the troops in the nearest proportion to the number of the men furnished; ten lieutenants, one to act as adjutant; ten ensigns, one chaplain, one surgeon, four mates.

Resolved, That the the Secretary at War give the necessary order for the inferior arrangements and organization of the said troops, and make the apportionment of the officers to be furnished by the several states, not herein particularly directed.

Resolved, That the said troops when embodied, on their march, on duty, and in garrison, shall be liable to all the rules and regulations formed for the government of the late army of the United States.

Resolved, That the Superintendant of the Finances of the United States, take order for furnishing on the warrant of the Secretary at War, the sums requisite for carrying the foregoing resolutions into effect.[1]

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[1] This report in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 24, folio 103–109.

A motion was made by Mr. [Ephraim] Paine, seconded by Mr. [Charles] De Witt, to postpone the consideration thereof, in order to take up the report of the committee, on the representation from the delegates of New-York, and which is as follows:

"The committee, consisting of Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [Roger] Sherman, Mr. [William] Ellery, Mr. [Samuel] Hardy, and Mr. [George] Partridge, to whom was referred the representation of the delegates from the State of New York, respecting the controversy between the said State, and the people inhabiting the territory called the New Hampshire Grants, made in pursuance of express instructions from the legislature of the said State, urging the necessity of an immediate decision of the said controversy, with sundry affidavits and other papers accompanying the same, having carefully examined the papers, and the files and proceedings of Congress, respecting the said controversy, and maturely considered the case, report thereon as follows: That by an act of Congress of the 7th of August, 1781, reciting, that the States of New Hampshire and New York had submitted to Congress the decision of the disputes between them, and the people inhabiting the New Hampshire Grants, on the west side of Connecticut river, called the State of Vermont, concerning their respective claims of jurisdiction over the said territory, and had been heard thereon, and that the people aforesaid did claim and exercise the powers of a sovereign independent State, and had requested to be admitted into the fœderal Union of these States: It was among other things resolved, "That a committee of five be appointed to confer with such person or persons as may be appointed by the people residing on the New Hampshire Grants on the west side of Connecticut river, or by their representative body, respecting their claim to be an independent State, and on what terms it may be proper to admit them into the fœderal

Union of these States, in case the United States in Congress assembled, shall determine to recognize their independence. and thereof make report." "And it is hereby recommended to the people of the territory aforesaid, or their representative body, to appoint an agent or agents to repair immediately to Philadelphia, with full powers and instructions to confer with the said committee on the matters aforesaid, and on behalf of the said people to agree upon and ratify terms and articles of Union and confederation with the United States of America, in case they shall be admitted into the Union; and the said committee are hereby instructed to give notice to the agents of the States of New Hampshire and New York, to be present at the conference aforesaid."

And on the 8 day of the said August, a committee was accordingly appointed, who afterwards had a conference with Jonas Fay, Ira Allen and Bezaleel Woodward, agents appointed by the authority of the people inhabiting the said territory called the New Hampshire Grants, to repair to Congress, and to propose and receive from them, terms of a Union with the United States.

That the committee appointed as aforesaid having made their report, Congress on the 20 day of August. 1781, came to the following resolution:

"It being the fixed purpose of Congress to adhere to the guarantee to the states of New Hampshire and New York, contained in the resolutions of the 7 instant:

Resolved, That it be an indispensable preliminary to the recognition of the independence of the people inhabiting the territory called Vermont, and their admission into the fœderal Union, that they explicitly relinquish all demands of lands or jurisdiction on the east side of the west bank of Connecticut river, and on the west side of a line beginning at the northwest corner of the State of Massachusetts, thence running twenty miles east of Hudson's river, so far as the said river runs northeasterly in its general course; then by the west bounds of the townships granted by the late government of New Hampshire, to the river running from South Bay to Lake Champlain; thence along the said river to Lake Champlain; thence along the waters of Lake Champlain, to the latitude of 45 degrees north, excepting a neck of land between Missiskoy Bay and the waters of Lake Champlain."

Which resolution was agreed to by nine states. That on 19th of October, 1781, the Assembly of Vermont, taking into their consideration the aforesaid act of Congress,

Resolved, That they could not comply with it, without destroying the harmony then subsisting in that State, and a violation of a solemn compact entered into by articles of union, &c., as appears on the journal of Congress of the 4 of April, 1782.

That afterwards, on the 22d day of February, 1782, the people inhabiting the said territory called Vermont, by their representatives in general assembly, in compliance with the aforesaid act of Congress, then remaining unaltered and unrepealed, came to the following resolutions, to wit:

"*Resolved*, That the West bank of Connecticut river, and a line beginning at the northwest corner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, from thence northward twenty miles east of Hudson's river, as specified in the resolutions of Congress in August last, shall be considered as the east and west boundaries of this State; and that this Assembly do hereby relinquish all claims and demands to, and jurisdiction in and over any and every district of territory without said boundary lines."

And afterwards, in the said month of February, 1782, the said general Assembly appointed Moses Robinson, Paul Spooner, Isaac Tichenor and Jonas Fay, esqrs., agents, with plenary powers on behalf of the people of the said district, to negotiate and agree on terms for their admission into confederation with these United States; and upon such admission to represent the said State of Vermont in Congress; and it being now represented by the State of New York, that great danger and distress will arise from a further delay of the decision of the said controversy; and the people of Vermont having complied as aforesaid with the terms prescribed by Congress, as a preliminary to the recognition of their independence, your committee submit the following resolves:

Resolved, That the district of territory lying on the west side of Connecticut river, called Vermont, within the limits and boundaries described in the act of Congress of the 20 August, 1781, and the people inhabiting the same, be, and they are hereby recognized and declared to be a free, sovereign and independent State, by the name of the State of Vermont. That the said State of Vermont, being within the limits of the United States, shall be considered as a part of the Confederacy, on the same principles as the new states, who shall have established permanent governments agreeably to the act of Congress of the 23 day of April last, until it shall accede to the Articles of Confederation, and be admitted into the federal Union of these States.

Resolved, That Congress adhere to the guarantee to the States of New Hampshire and New York, agreeably to the resolutions of the 7 and 20 day of August, 1781; and if it shall appear, on running the line between the States of New York and Vermont, that the latter hath made any encroachments on the territory of the former, the same shall be immediately removed.

Your committee further report, with respect to the matters alleged by the delegates of New York, concerning the sufferings of individuals by banishment and confiscation of property, and the disorders and violences that have happened in consequence of the opposite and interfering jurisdictions exercised by the State of New York and the government of Vermont, over the same persons within the said district; that the several letters and papers from the governor of New York and the people of Vermont, relative to those matters, have been heretofore committed, and no report hath been made thereon; your committee are therefore of opinion, that if Congress shall judge it expedient to take any further order respecting those matters, it will be proper again to commit those papers."

On the question to postpone for the purpose above mentioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Ephraim] Paine,

New Hampshire,		ay
Mr. Foster,	ay	
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		no
Mr. Gerry,	no	
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		no
Mr. Ellery,	no	
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		div.
Mr. Sherman,	ay	
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		ay
Mr. De Witt,	ay	
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		no
Mr. Stevens,	no	
Beatty,	no	
Dick,	no	

Pennsylvania,		no
Mr. Mifflin,	no	
Montgomery,	no	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		no
Mr. McHenry,	no	
Stone,	no	
Chase,	no	
Virginia,		no
Mr. Hardy,	no	
Lee,	no	
Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,		no
Mr. Williamson,	no	
Spaight,	no	
South Carolina,		*
Mr. Read.	no	

So it passed in the negative.

Congress proceeded in the consideration of the report before the House, and a motion was made by Mr. [John]

Beatty, seconded by Mr. [Samuel] Dick, to strike out the words and figures, "New Jersey 110:" And on the question, shall those words and figures stand the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [John] Beatty,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	no	no
Beatty,	no	
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
Stone,	ay	
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Lee,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

A motion was then made by Mr. [John] Beatty, seconded by Mr. [John] Stevens, to amend the report by adding the following:

"That where the laws of any State will not admit of their militia being called out, on the terms prescribed in the foregoing resolutions, such State may be permitted to engage the quota of men assigned it, in such manner as the legislature thereof shall direct."[1] On this the previous question was moved by Massachusetts and Maryland:

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[1] This motion, in the writing of John Beatty, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 575.

And on the question to agree to the previous question, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [John] Beatty,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	div.
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	no	no
Beatty,	no	
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	no	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
Stone,	ay	
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it was resolved in the affirmative, and the motion was set aside.

The report being amended to read as follows:

Whereas a body of troops, to consist of seven hundred non-commissioned officers and privates, properly officered, are immediately and indispensably necessary for taking possession of the western posts, as soon as evacuated by the troops of his britannic Majesty, for the protection of the northwestern frontiers, and for guarding the public stores;

Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby recommended to the states hereafter named, as most conveniently situated, to furnish forthwith from their militia, seven hundred men, to serve for twelve months, unless sooner discharged, in the following proportions, viz.

Connecticut,	165	New Jersey,	110	
New York,	165	Pensylvania,	260	
				— 700

Resolved, That the Secretary in the War Office take order for forming the said troops when assembled, into one regiment, to consist of eight companies of infantry, and two of artillery, arming and equipping them in a soldier-like manner; and that he be authorised to direct their destination and operations, subject to the order of Congress, and of the Committee of the states in the recess of Congress.

Resolved, That the pay, subsistance and rations of the officers and men shall be the same as has been heretofore allowed to the troops of the United States; and that each officer and soldier shall receive one month's pay after they are embodied, before their march.

Resolved, That the staff and commissioned officers of the said troops, consist of the following, and be furnished by the several states hereinafter mentioned; that is to say, one lieutenant colonel commandant from Pensylvania; two majors, one from Connecticut, and one from New York, each major to command a company; eight captains from the several states furnishing the troops in the nearest proportion to the number of the men furnished; ten lieutenants, one to act as adjutant; ten ensigns; one regimental chaplain; one surgeon; four mates.

Resolved, That the secretary in the War office give the necessary order for the inferior arrangements and organization of the said troops, and make the apportionment of the officers to be furnished by the several states, not herein particularly directed.

Resolved, That the said troops when embodied, on their march, on duty, and in garrison, shall be liable to all the rules and regulations formed for the government of the late army of the United States, or such rules and regulations as Congress or a committee of the states may form.

Resolved, That the Superintendant of the finances of the United States, take order for furnishing, on the warrant of the secretary in the war office, the sums requisite for carrying the foregoing resolutions into effect.[1]

On the question to agree to the report as amended, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Ephraim] Paine,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	ay
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	no	no
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	no	no
Beatty,	no	
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Montgomery,	ay	
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
Stone,	ay	
Chase,	ay	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Mercer,	ay	
Monroe,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it was resolved in the affirmative.[2]

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, Mr. [Arthur] Lee, Mr. [John] Beatty and Mr. [Roger] Sherman, to whom was referred a report of a committee, on a report of the Superintendant of finance, dated the 5 November, 1783, in answer to questions proposed by the Commissioner for settling the accounts of the State of Pensylvania with the United States; and also a report on the petition of James Smith, praying for a sum of money to be advanced to him on account;

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[1] This report, in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 24, folios 103–109.

[2] From this point the entries in the Journal are made by Benjamin Bankson.

Resolved, That all monies or articles supplied by the United States to any particular State, shall be charged to such State at their just value in specie, with an interest of six per cent. per annum, from the date of such supplies, until the final adjustment and payment of the account; but the former requisitions of Congress, for supplies from the states, not being considered as their real quotas of the common expence, are not to be charged.

That all monies or continental bills of credit furnished by any particular State to the United States, to be re-issued, and all other articles supplied to, or charges made against the United States by any particular State, and allowed in the adjustment of its account, shall be credited to such State at the specie value, with an interest of six per cent. per annum, from the date of such supplies, until the final settlement of the account.

That if bills of credit advanced to any State or person to be expended for the use of the United States, shall have depreciated before the same were so applied, the receiver shall not be charged with the depreciation, if satisfactory evidence be given to the Commissioner by such receiver, that such bills had not been applied to any other use, (and were applied to the purpose designed, as soon as occasion required); otherwise such receiver will be chargeable with such bills at their value when received, or at such lesser value as the Commissioner, on consideration of all circumstances attending the case, shall judge equitable.

That in cases where no written vouchers are or can be produced, and the Commissioner shall receive satisfactory evidence that such vouchers have been destroyed or lost, or that from the circumstances of the case they have never been obtained, he may receive such other evidence as shall be satisfactory to him, and the best that the circumstances of the case will admit; and at his discretion may examine the claimant or claimants under oath, respecting any accounts exhibited to him for settlement, whether accompanied with written vouchers or not, when the other evidence is not sufficient to satisfy him as to the truth or justice of the charge; and in case he shall doubt the truth or justice of any charge, or the authenticity of any voucher, it shall be his duty to enquire into the matter by the best evidence that can be obtained, and to allow such claims only as shall be supported by satisfactory evidence.

That the specie value of supplies furnished, or services rendered by individuals, on unliquidated accounts, to the United States, before the 26 of August, 1780, shall be ascertained, so far as may be, by the rule prescribed by a resolution of Congress of that date: and in all cases wherein that rule can not be applied, and no other is given by Congress, the just value in specie must be ascertained by the judgment of the Commissioner, on the best evidence that can be had.

That the accounts for supplies be settled by the Commissioner in the State where the same were furnished, except that in cases where the same person may have an account for supplies furnished in several States, the Superintendant of finance may, if he shall think proper, order the whole account to be settled by one Commissioner, or by the Comptroller.

That it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to attend[1] in different counties or districts, when, in his opinion, it will save expence; and expedite the settlement of accounts, or when thereto requested by the legislature or the Supreme Executive of the State for which he is appointed.

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[1] From this point the entries in the Journal are by John Kilty, Jr.

That the several Commissioners be instructed to proceed in the business of settling accounts will all possible despatch.

That the Commissioners make reasonable allowance for the use of stores, and other buildings, hired for the use of the United States, by persons having authority to contract for the same; but that rent be not allowed for buildings which being abandoned by the owners were occupied by the troops of the United States.

That such compensation as the commissioner may think reasonable, be made for wood, forage or other property of individuals, taken by order of any proper officer, or applied to, or used for the benefit of the army of the United States, upon producing to him satisfactory evidence thereof, by the testimony of one or more disinterested witnesses.

That according to the laws and usages of nations, a State is not obliged to make compensation for damages done to its citizens by an enemy, or wantonly and unauthorised by its own troops; yet humanity requires that some relief should be granted to persons who, by such losses, are reduced to indigence and want: and as the circumstances of such sufferers are best known to the states to which they belong, it is the opinion of the committee, that it be referred to the several states, (at their own expence,) to grant such relief to their citizens, who have been injured as aforesaid, as they may think requisite: and if it shall hereafter appear reasonable that the United States should make any allowance to any particular states who may be burthened much beyond others, that the allowance ought to be determined by Congress; but that no allowance be made by the Commissioners for settling accounts, for any charges of that kind against the United States.

That the Superintendant of finance be authorised to give such further instructions to the Commissioners for facilitating the settlement of the accounts of individuals with the United States, and issuing certificates on interest for what may be found due to them, as may be necessary, and not repugnant to the resolutions of Congress.

That new certificates on interest shall be issued in exchange for those that may have heretofore been issued by any commissary or quartermaster general, or deputy commissary or deputy quartermaster general or other officer who, had a right to give such certificates for supplies or services rendered to the United States, previous to, or in pursuance of the resolution of Congress of the 26 of August, 1780, to the amount of such former certificates in specie; and specie certificates issued to any person in his own name, for services or supplies which he has furnished for the United States, shall be received of him in payment of any demand which the United States have against him, upon the settlement of his account.

That an interest of six per cent. per annum shall be allowed to all creditors of the United States, for supplies furnished, or services done, from the time that the payment became due.

That the Superintendant of finance give order for the speedy settlement of the accounts of James Smith, by the proper Commissioner, and take order for payment of what may be found due to him, or such part thereof as the state of the finances will admit, without giving him any undue preference to other creditors.

Rejected.

[That a Commissioner be appointed to settle the accompts of the Commercial Committee and other persons entrusted with the Commercial concerns of the United States, and that he observe the Rules prescribed to the other Commissioners for liquidating the public Accompts.

That the commissioner for settling the marine accounts, be directed to proceed to Boston, to adjust those of the Navy Board, and all other marine accounts of the United States in the eastern department.]

That the paymaster general, in settling the old accounts of the line of the army, be instructed to have recourse to the principles of the above resolutions, so far as they may apply.[1]

[2] P. M. FOUR O'CLOCK

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Samuel] Hardy and Mr [Edward] Hand, to whom was referred a letter from the governor of the State of Massachusetts, with its inclosures, and a motion of the delegates of Massachusetts. Congress came to the following resolution:

Whereas it is represented, that early in February, 1776, the accounts of the State of Massachusetts against the United States, were forwarded to Congress, and by them referred to a committee, who examined and approved the same, except the charges for the Boston poor and sea-coast guards; and whereas the committee found the accounts were supported by proper vouchers, so far as they respected the expenditure of the money in making purchases; and that the final settlement of the accounts were only deferred till similar or competent proofs should be obtained of the issues or expenditures of the articles thus purchased for the public use: And whereas it is further represented, that the vouchers respecting the purchases, were put up in boxes, and lodged in the care of the Officers of the treasury of the United States, and that during the removals to which they have been exposed, the boxes have been opened, and some of the papers lost; and as it is not reasonable that the State of Massachusetts should suffer by the loss of those vouchers, which it has once produced:

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[1] This report, in the writing of Roger Sherman, except the paragraphs in brackets, which are in the writing of Richard Dobbs Spaight, and the last, paragraph, which is in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, V, folios 393 and 401-1. It is indorsed: " . . . On B. Stelle's queries, &c. . . . " A printed copy of the report, with the alterations, is on folio 403.

The following undated motion, in the writing of Jonathan Blanchard (?) appears to belong to this period. It is in No. 36, II, folio 419:

That it shall be the duty of said Commissioners to receive of the States in the district for which they [are] appointed all their accounts and vouchers for demands which said state or states may have against the United States for services performed or supplies made wither the same has been made under existing resolutions of Congress or not.

[2] At this point Charles Thomson resumes the entries in the Journal.

Resolved, That the Commissioner for liquidating and settling the accounts of the State of Massachusetts with the United States be, and he is hereby instructed to pass the accounts which have been rendered as aforesaid, so far as such accounts respect the purchases, though they should, in some instances, be defective; and that in examining the accounts of issues, he admit such evidence as may appear reasonable and satisfactory, respect being had to the general disorder and want of system, about the beginning of the late war.[1]

On the report of the Superintendant of finance, to whom was referred the memorial of Lieutenant Andrew Lytle,

Resolved, That Lieutenant Andrew Lytle be allowed to debit the United States, with the sum of seven hundred and fifty-one dollars, and that he receive credit for the same, in the settlement of his accounts.

Congress proceeded to the election of Commissioners to form a board of treasury, and, the ballots being taken, the following gentlemen were elected: Mr. Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, having been previously nominated by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson; Mr. Oliver Ellsworth, having been previously nominated by Mr. [James] Wadsworth; and, Mr. William Denning, having been previously nominated by Mr. [Charles] De Witt.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 20, I, folio 165.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Thomas] Stone, Mr. [Jacob] Read, Mr. [James] Monroe, Mr. [Hugh] Williamson and Mr. [Roger] Sherman, to whom was referred a petition from the legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, praying that a fœderal court may be appointed by Congress, to decide a dispute between the said Commonwealth and the State of New York;

Resolved, That the first Monday in December next, be assigned for the appearance of the said States of Massachusetts and New York, by their lawful agents, at the place in which Congress shall then be sitting.

Resolved, That the form of the notice be as follows, to be transmitted by the Secretary, agreeably to the Articles of Confederation.[1]

By the United States in Congress assembled, in the city of Annapolis, on the 3 day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, and in the eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

It is hereby made known, that pursuant to the ninth of the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have presented a petition to Congress in the words following:

"To the United States in Congress assembled, the petition of the legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sheweth, That whereas James the first, late King of Great

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[1] This report in the writing of Thomas Stone as to the first paragraph and of Elbridge Gerry as to the two resolutions, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folios 447 and 451. The Massachusetts petition is in No. 65, II, folio 229.

Britain, by his letters patent, bearing date at Westminster, the third day of November, in the eighteenth year of his reign, granted unto the Council established at Plimouth, in the county of Devon, and kingdom of Great Britain, commonly called the Council for planting, ruling and ordering and governing of New England in America, all that part of America, lying and being in breadth from forty to forty-eight degrees of northerly latitude, and of length of and within all the breadth aforesaid, throughout the main lands, from sea to sea, to hold the same to themselves, their successors and assigns forever: And whereas the said council established at Plimouth, by their deed, indented under their seal, dated the nineteenth day of March, in the third year of the reign of Charles the first, late king of Great Britain, did bargain, sell, enfeoff, alien and confirm, unto Sir Henry Roswell and his associates, and to their heirs and assigns, all that part of New England, in America, which lieth and extendeth between a great river called Merrimack, and a certain other river there called Charles river, being the bottom of a bay there called Massachusetts Bay, and also all those lands lying within three English miles to the southward of the southernmost part of the said bay, and extending thence northward, in latitude to the northward of every part of the said river Merrimack, and in the breadth of latitude aforesaid, extending throughout all the main land, in longitude westwardly to the southern ocean. And the said legislature in their claim herein described, do aver, that the point or place situate three miles south of the bay called Massachusetts Bay, is a point or place situate in forty-two degrees of northern latitude, two minutes north; and that the place, point or boundary aforesaid, of three miles to the northward of every part of the river Merrimack, is a place or point situate in forty-four degrees northern latitude, fifteen minutes north; and that by the grant aforesaid, the said Sir Henry Roswell and his associates, became seized of all the lands before described and contained in the grant aforesaid, of the said council established at Plimouth; and that the same grant was confirmed to the said Henry Roswell and his associates, by the said King Charles, by his letters patent, dated in the fourth year of his reign; and that the said Sir Henry Roswell and his associates, were, immediately upon making the grant aforesaid by the said council, in the actual seizen and possession of all the lands aforesaid, and for many years held the same, under the name and title of the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay, in New England: And that such proceedings and possessions have been done and had respecting the territory aforesaid, granted to the said Sir Henry Roswell and his associates, and such subsequent grants have been made of the same, that all the said territory is now the just and proper right of the Commonwealth aforesaid. And all this the said legislature are ready to verify.

And whereas the State of New York have set up a claim to some part of the land beforementioned, and it being highly necessary to have the same claims brought to an immediate decision, they do therefore, in behalf of the said Commonwealth, most solemnly request the United States of America in Congress assembled, that commissioners may be appointed for enquiring into and determining upon the claim aforesaid of the said legislature, and that such other proceedings respecting the premises may be had, as are by the fœderal government of the said United States in such cases made and provided."

And that the first Monday in December next is assigned for the appearance of the said states of Massachusetts and New York, by their lawful agents, at the place in which Congress shall then sit, to proceed in the premises as by the said Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union is directed.

By order of Congress,

Charles Thomson, *Secretary*.

It was then moved, that the journal of this day's proceedings be read.

A motion was made by Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Richard] Beresford, to postpone the reading of the journal, in order to take into consideration the report of the committee on Indian affairs in the southern department: And on the question to agree to this motion, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Jacob] Read,

New Hampshire,			*Pennsylvania,*		
Mr. Foster,	no	div.	Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Blanchard,	ay		Hand,	ay	
Massachusetts,			*Maryland,*		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no	Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
Dana,	no		Stone,	ay	
Partridge,	no		Chase,	no	
Rhode Island,		*	*Virginia,*		
Mr. Howell,	no		Mr. Hardy,	ay	ay
Connecticut,			Mercer,	no	
Mr. Sherman,	no	no	Lee,	ay	
Wadsworth,	no		*North Carolina,*		
New York,			Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Mr. De Witt,	no	no	Spaight,	ay	
Paine,	no		*South Carolina,*		
New Jersey,			Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Mr. Stevens,	no	no	Beresford,	ay	
Dick,	no				

So the question was lost.

A motion was then made by Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, seconded by Mr. [Jacob] Read, in order to take up the following:

"That the act of Congress of the 26 April, authorizing the President to adjourn Congress on this day, ~~being~~

~~irregular and unconstitutional~~ be repealed; and that this Congress will continue to sit till the business before them be acted on." [1]

And on the question to postpone for the purpose abovementioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	no
Blanchard,	no	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	no	no
Dana,	no	
Partridge,	no	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	no	no
Howell,	no	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	no	no
Wadsworth,	no	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	no	no
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	no	no
Dick,	no	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin, excused from voting.		
Hand,	no	
Maryland,		
Mr. McHenry,	no	no
Stone,	ay	
Chase,	no	
Virginia,		
Mr. Hardy,	no	no
Mercer,	no	
Lee,	ay	
North Carolina,		
Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,		
Mr. Read,	ay	ay
Beresford,	ay	

So it passed in the negative.

The journal up to this period was then read.

A motion was made by Mr. [Arthur] Lee, seconded by Mr. [Richard] Beresford, in the words following:

Whereas it is necessary to expedite the holding treaties with the Indian nations, &c. as entered on the journal of the 18 May last.

An amendment was moved by Mr. [James] McHenry, seconded by Mr. [John Francis] Mercer, by inserting, "of the militia directed to be raised by the act of this day," immediately after the words, "three hundred men:" And on the question to agree to this amendment, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Arthur] Lee,

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Richard Dobbs Spaight, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 358.

New Hampshire,	Mr. Foster,	ay	ay
	Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,	Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
	Dana,	no	
	Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,	Mr. Ellery,	ay	div.
	Howell,	no	
Connecticut,	Mr. Sherman,	ay	*
New York,	Mr. De Witt,	ay	ay
	Paine,	ay	
New Jersey,	Mr. Stevens,	ay	ay
	Beatty,	ay	
	Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,	Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
	Hand,	ay	
Maryland,	Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
	Stone,	ay	
	Chase.	ay	
Virginia,	Mr. Hardy,	ay	div.
	Mercer,	ay	
	Lee,	no	
	Monroe,	no	
North Carolina,	Mr. Williamson,	ay	ay
	Spaight,	ay	
South Carolina,	Mr. Read,	no	no
	Beresford,	no	

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The motion being amended, was agreed to as follows:

Whereas it is necessary to expedite the holding treaties with the Indian nations, which it appears cannot be done but under the protection of an armed force; therefore,

Resolved, That the Secretary in the War Office be, and he is hereby directed to order three hundred men, of the militia directed to be raised by the act of this day, to be in readiness to march when and to what place or places the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, or any two of them, shall direct: and that the commanding officer of the said troops, give such protection to the Commissioners, as they, or any two of them, shall require; and that the said Secretary give order to the different keepers of the public stores, to furnish to the order of the Commissioners, or any two of them, such tents, marquees and other articles as the said Commissioners shall think proper.

Resolved, That the Superintendant of finance take order for purchasing and transmitting the articles necessary for the Indian treaties, according to a list hereunto annexed, to such places as the commissioners appointed to negotiate with the Indians, or any two of them, shall direct. That he furnish such additional articles, not exceeding the sum of four thousand dollars, as the said commissioners shall order; and that he contract with such persons as he may think proper, to furnish sixty thousand rations for the Indian treaties, at such places as the commissioners or any two of them shall direct, together with such things as shall be necessary for the expences of the said commissioners during the negotiation.

Resolved, That the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, or any two of them, being a majority of those present, be empowered to do the business of the commission, and to appoint a secretary, messengers, interpreters, storekeepers, and such artificers as they may find necessary, and to agree with them for their pay, for which they shall draw warrants on the treasury

On motion of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, seconded by

Resolved, That the thanks of Congress be given to his Excellency Thomas Mifflin, for his able and faithful discharge of the duties of President, whilst acting in that important station.[1]

A motion was made by Mr. [Francis] Dana, seconded by Mr. [Edward] Hand,

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress,* No. 36, IV, folio 565.

That the committee of the states appointed by Congress to sit during their recess, be, and they are hereby directed, to hold their session at Trenton, in the State of New Jersey, and to open the same ~~as soon after the adjournment of Congress as shall be convenient~~ on the twentieth day of June instant, and the several states are requested to keep up their representation therein.[1]

A motion was made by Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Richard] Beresford, to postpone the consideration of that motion, in order to take up the following:

"That notwithstanding the act of the 26 April last, Congress will continue to sit and transact the business of the United States, until Tuesday the 8th of June instant, on which day the President shall adjourn Congress, to meet at Trenton on the 30th day of October next, pursuant to the said act of the 26 of April above mentioned:"[2]

On the question to postpone for the purpose above mentioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Jacob] Read,

New Hampshire,		
Mr. Foster,	no	div.
Blanchard,	ay	
Massachusetts,		
Mr. Gerry,	ay	ay
Dana,	ay	
Partridge,	ay	
Rhode Island,		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	ay
Howell,	ay	
Connecticut,		
Mr. Sherman,	ay	ay
Wadsworth,	ay	
New York,		
Mr. De Witt,	no	no
Paine,	no	
New Jersey,		
Mr. Stevens,	ay	ay
Beatty,	ay	
Dick,	ay	
Pennsylvania,		
Mr. Mifflin,	ay	ay
Hand,	ay	
Maryland,		
Mr. McHenry,	ay	ay
Stone,	ay	
Chase,	ay	

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[1] This report, in the writing of Francis Dana, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 573.

[2] This motion, in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 581.

Virginia,		ay	*North Carolina,*		ay
Mr. Hardy,	no		Mr. Williamson,	ay	
Mercer,	ay		Spaight,	ay	
Lee,	ay		*South Carolina,*		ay
Monroe,	ay		Mr. Read,	ay	
			Beresford,	ay	

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

After debate, a division was called for by Mr. [John Francis] Mercer, so that a question be taken on the first part, as far as the words, "8th of June instant;" and the second question on the latter part.

Upon this the motion was withdrawn, to make way for a motion of Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, to this effect, that on Tuesday next, Congress should stand adjourned to meet at Trenton on the 30 of October.

[Motion of Mr. Elbridge Gerry.]

Resolved, That Congress stand adjourned, with or without the usual form of adjourning ~~by the President or a chairman of Congress~~ on Tuesday the 8th instant to meet at Trenton on the 30th October following for the dispatch of public business, any thing in their resolution of the 26th of April last to the Contrary notwithstanding.[1]

[Motion respecting the Committee of the States convening Congress at an earlier date than they stand adjourned for]

That the Committee may convoke Congress at an earlier day than that to which they shall stand adjourned, if the public exigencies shall in their opinion require it, [and that the rules & orders of Congress shall be adopted by the Committee.][2]

An adjournment was then called for, which being carried,

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[1] This motion, in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 461. It is indorsed by Thomson " . . . When the adjournment was called for."

[2] This motion, undated, in the writing of John Beatty, except the part in brackets, which is in the writing of Elbridge Gerry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, IV, folio 569.

The President, by virtue of the powers, and in pursuance of the direction of the act of the 26 April, adjourned Congress to meet at Trenton on the 30th day of October next.

The Committee [Mr. Samuel Hardy, Mr. Hugh Williamson and Mr. James McHenry] to whom was referred a letter from the Superintendant of Finance of the 26th May, (ulto) enclosing a letter from Joseph Pennel, Esqr, submit the following resolve.

That the Commissioner for settling the Accounts of the Marine Department be instructed and authorized in settling the accounts of the several continental agents to make them such reasonable compensation as they may seem to have merited from the extent or difficulty of their respective services, not allowing them in any case more than a commission of five per cent.[1]

That the Supt: Intt of Finance ~~to take order to supply~~ furnish Col. Hull who ~~is appointed to~~ has lately been ordered by General Knox to go into Canada for the purposes mentioned in the resolution of Congress of the   day of   with so much money as may be necessary for his expences in that business.

Motion of Mr Francis Dana, Mr David Howell, June 3d 1784.

Referred to the Superintendt of finance, to take order.][2]

The Committee of the Week [Mr. James McHenry, Mr. Francis Dana and Mr. Jacob Read] to whom were referred the memorial of John Ross beg leave to report, that a report of a Committee of February, 1783, be taken up.[3]

The Superintendent of the Finances of the United States to whom was referred the Memorial of Lieutenant Andrew Lytle begs leave, To report,

That the enclosed papers, number one two three, four and five contain the correspondence which hath passed between the Superintendant and Lieutenant Lytle.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, IV, folio 439. The indorsement indicates that it was read on this or an approximate date. It also states: "See letter Mr Pennel January 15, 1785. Report Board of Treasury June 13, 1785."

[2] This motion, in the writing of Francis Dana, except the part in brackets which is in the writing of Charles Thomson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 36, II, folio 453.

[3] This report, in the writing of James McHenry, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 41, VIII, folio 330. Ross's memorial is on folio 327. Another letter of Ross's is in No. 78, XIX, folio 471.

On this, or an approximate date, was read a letter of the 1st from Hugh Gayron. It is in No. 78, X, folio 471.

That the enclosed paper Number six contains the copy of a report of the Board of Treasury of the fourth of August 1780 which was adopted by Congress on the seventh— And,

That the case of Lieutenant Lytle being analogous to that of Alexander Benstead, it may be proper to comply with so much of the memorial as prays an order,

That Lieutenant Andrew Lytle be allowed to Debit the United States with the sum of seven hundred and fifty one dollars and that he receive credit for the same on the settlement of his accounts.[1]

Office of Finance 5th May 1784.

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[1] This report is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 137, III, folio 589. The indorsement states that it was passed on this day, having been read May 11.

Admiral Digby Announces to Governor Clinton He is on the Point of Sailing.

Amphion, off Staten Island, 5th December, 1783

Sir, I have this moment received a Complaint, that one of the Refugees going to Abaco has been taken out of the Vessel under English Colours. As I am just on the point of sailing I have desired Captain Cochrane to enquire into it, and represent it to your Excellency and have no doubt should it be, as is represented to me, you will order the Man to be returned to Captain Cochrane.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellency's most Obed't. Servant

(signed) **Robt. Digby.**

His Excellency Governor Clinton.

[No. 5321.]

Governor Clinton to Major General Knox Communicating a Resolution of Thanks from the Council for His Services in Securing the Peace of the City When Evacuated by the British.

Sir, It gives me great pleasure to find my sentiments of the services rendered by you & the offers & men under your command to the inhabitants of this State expressed by the Council & it is with peculiar satisfaction that I obey their order in communicating the Enclosed resolution to you & thro' you to the officers & privates who are also the objects of it.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the highest Esteem & Respect

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RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL APPOINTED UNDER ACT OF MARCH 27, 1783, FOR THE TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Resolved, that his Excellency the Governor be requested to present the thanks of this council to Maj. Gen. Knox & the officers & privates of the detachment under his command for the attention they have manifested to the rights of the Citizens of this state & for their aid in preserving the Peace and Good Order of the Southern District since the evacuation thereof by the forces of his Britanic Majesty; to assure them of the grateful sense this Council entertain of their essential services, as all of those that they as a part of the American army have rendered to the inhabitants of this state in common with the other Citizens of America during the late long & arduous contest.

[No. 5449.]

Joseph Brant on Behalf of the Six Nations, Desires to Renew the Ancient Covenant and Proposes that the Council be Held at Fort Schuyler.

A Meeting held at Loyal Village June the 6th 1784, by the Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations &c Viz the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, Tuscaroras and Delawares & in consequence of a message delivered in Council by Mr. Peter Ryckman from the Governor and Commissioners* for the State of New York dated the 12th of April 1784.

Attend Gov'r Clinton of New York.

You inform us that you are appointed a Commissioner to confer with us in order to accomodate the differences that have unhappily arisen between us in the cours of the late war and that this appointment has been made expressly, least others than those whom we had always considered as our immediat brethren and who now wish to renew the antient covenant which subsisted between us. We clearly and fully understand the meaning of what you have said which to us appears Just and reasonable; you likewise clear the path of communication between you and us and as the Roads are now clear we can pass and repass without interuption. We now do in the like manner Clear the path with a firm resolution that it shall remain so that we may equally pass & repass.

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*March 25, 1783 the Legislature authorized the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council of Appointment, to appoint three commissioners for Indian affairs within this State. April 6, 1784 the Governor and the commissioners already appointed, "together with such other persons as the Governor and commissioners shall deem expedient and necessary to associate with themselves" were authorized to enter into compacts or agreements with any Indians residing within this State. It was under authority of these laws that the Council at Loyal Village was held.—STATE HISTORIAN.

A. String

Governor Clinton hearken:

You say that you have understood by General Schuyler that we are inclined to renew the antient friendship which subsisted between us and that our intentions are honest, generous and sincere, and that you were glad to hear it; that you wish that all animosity should be buried in eternal oblivion. We the Six Nations assure you that we are glad to hear that you are disposed to end, as it clearly appears to us by the Manner of Your Speech, that a firm and perpetual peace can be established; our intentions have been and are such We have communicated our sentiments to General Schuyler on that subject that we meant to bury in oblivion what is past and an honorable peace established between us to be settled upon for the interest of both, and as we have before said, that we comprehend the purport of your speech we are convinced that this friendship will be renewed & settled upon without difficulty, as it seems it would be difficult to settle a peace with General Schuyler by the manner of his speeches. You invite us to this end to meet you in Council at the German Flatts, but you do not fix on a day for the meating as our distance might Render it Inconvenient for to attend; we look upon this as a Verry reasonable remark of Yours. We the Chiefs &c

are Sorry to Inform you that at the time we Received your Message, we likewise received one from our Brethren the Southern Indians, informing us that they were uneasy in mind that the Virginians had Crossed the Ohio river and attended with bad consequences, which has Ocasioned us from immediately attending the proposed meeting, and we Intend to dispatch with all speed, Runners to prevent if possible any such accidents as Commonly Follow, and on the Return of those Runners we Shall Immediately dispatch one to you to Inform you of the time we Shall meet you, as we are desirous that this salutary Business should be settled, and we Expect that a few of the Southern Indians will also attend this meeting as it will be Conformable to our Agrements with them, as our intentions in Settling the peace will be strong and as public as possible; we are desirous that you will Communicate to Congress the Accounts which we have received from our Brethren, as it may be in their power to prevent any such accidents and let them know whatever passes between us and that we Expect the meeting will soon take place and at the same time wish to see proper persons from the different States present and we Expect to make one peace with the whole.

A Large White Belt.

With this Belt we now Remove your Council fire to Fort Stanwix as it will be more Convienient to us and don't think it Can make Marterial difference with you we will be glad to hear whether the Removal of the Council fire &c Meets with your Approbation.

A. Belt

Joseph Brant.

A Meeting held at Loyal Village 6th June 1784 by the Chi, and Warriors of the Six Nations &ca. Vizt, the Mohocks, Onei Onandagas, Cayugas, Senecas, Tuscaroras, Delawares &ca in consequence of a Message delivered in Council by Mr. Pe Ryckman, from the Governor and Commissioners for the St New York dated the 12th April 1784 —

Governor Clinton
te of New York

Brother

You inform us that you are appointed a Commissioner to confer with us, in order to accommodate the differences that have unhappily arisen between you and us, in the cour of the late War, and that this appointment ha been made expressly least we should object the impropriety of treating with any other than those, who had always been our immediate Brethren, and who now wish to renew the ancient covenant which subsisted between us. —

We clearly and fully understand the meaning of what you have said, which appears to us just and reasonable — You likewise clear the path of Communication between you and us and as the roads are now open, we can pass and repass without interruption; We now do in the like manner clear the path, with a firm resolution that it may remain so, that we may equally pass and repass. —

A String —

rnor Clinton

You say that you have understood by General Schuyler that we are inclined to renew the antient friendship which subsisted between us, and that our intentions are honest, generous and sincere, and that you was glad to hear it, you also wished that all animosity should be buried in eternal oblivion. —

We the Six Nations assure you that we are glad to hear that you are disposed to that peace, as it appears to us by your Speech, that a firm and perpetual peace can be established, our intentions have been and are such we have communicated our sentiments to General Schuyler on that Subject that we meant to bury in oblivion all that is past, and an honorable peace established between us, to be settled upon for the Interest of both; and as we have before said that we comprehend the purport of your Speech — We are now convinced that the friendship will be renewed and settled upon between us without difficulty, but heretofore it appeared very difficult to settle a peace with General Schuyler from the Language of his speeches. — You invite us to this end, to meet you in Council at the German Flats, but do not fix on the day for the meeting as our distance might render it inconvenient to attend. we look upon this to be a very reasonable remark of yours. — We the Chiefs &c are sorry to inform you ~~that~~ at the time we received your message, we also received one from our Brethren the Southern Indians, acquainting us that they are uneasey in their minds, that the Virginians have crossed the

River, and are surveying their Lands, this w
are apprehensive will be attended with bad consequences, which has prevented our immedia
attendance at the proposed meeting, but as we
intend to dispatch runners with all poſsible
speed to prevent, if poſsible, any such accide
as commonly follow, and on their return, we
will immedia[illegible]y dispatch another to you,
-form you of the time we will meet you; W
are Desirous that this salutary buſineſs sh
be settled.— and we expect that a few of the So
=rn & Westren Indians will also attend the me
=ing, it will be only conformable to our agree
ment with them, as our intentions in settle
peace, is to be unanimous, Strong and as publi
as poſsible,— We are also Desirous that you
will communicate with Congreſs, the accou
which we have received from our Brethren, a
abovementioned, as it may be in their power
to prevent any such accidents, and let them
know what ever paſses between you and us, an
that we expect that the meeting will soon ta
place, at which time we expect to see proper
persons authorized by the different States, as
mean to one peace with the whole and at the sa
time, ——

A large White Be

With this Belt we now remove your
Council Fire to Fort Stanwix, as it will be mor
convenient to us, and dont think it can make an
material difference to you, and we will be glad to
whither the removal of the Council Fire be meets wi
[illegible] not —

A Belt

(143)

7th Sp: of Nations

to Governor Clinton an

the Commissioners, Spee

to them, Loyal Village

6th June 1784 -

Quataracquee 8th June 1784

115

Colonel Claus

Sir I am glad to finde
Such a good opportunity to write you this
to aquaint you, that we have found a place
for to Settle &c. at the crook of Bay Quinty
& also a good River Suitable for Saw & grist
miles; the land ~~at~~ is So and So, we are now
come down at Quataracquee I & Mr. Vincent
with the Missisaguees and by thier desire for
to hear thier Speech, as they said; but Mayor
Ross is not at home he is gone to Carleton
Island, and we are to return home to day, for
our Camp is about we Miles from this; and
we are expecting Sir John Johnson
every day at our Camp &c — for we have
Sundries Small trival to petision for, Such
as cows horses Seeds &c — I send you
a plan of the land which we are to have &
likewise a little fawn, by 3 Canadiens
to Mr. Gochie at la Chine —
we have pitch upon our land which
you may see on the map above mentioned
remember sir that you promise me to
answer my letters and to help me as much

110

as possible, should be very glad that
you would assist us in mentioning
these things to Sir John, and also
to General Haldimand —

A Black Smith is wanted very
much by us for all the Smal hatches
re all like lead —

Mr Vincent's Compliment
to Colonel Claus and desir of him
that he would so kind as to send
him his brother in law to him,
his name is Joseph Chalifou
lives in St Laurance Suburbs, almost
to the further end of the Suburbs, he was
gone to winter in the woods some where
among the Indians for Mr Beau bien
Desriviere Merchant in Montreal &c
please Sir to send him up as soon
as possible for his mother & sister
want him very mush for they are
a lone a mong us —

I am Sir your humble Servant
John Deserontyon

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES PUBLIC ARCHIVES CANADA

(Duplicate)

Return of Work done in the
Engineers Department at
Niagara & its Dependencies
between 25th Decr. 1783 and
24th June 1784 inclusive

Sir   Niagara the 28 June 1784
326

In Complyance with your Excellencys orders of the 29th March and 24th May — On the 24th Instt. I reduced the Kings & 34th Regts and the Corps of Rangers were disbanded. Orders were sent for the reduced troops from Detroit & Michilimakinac, but I fear Contrary winds will detain them long. The people sign to their desire for cultivating Crown Lands but slowly, we have not above an hundred on the List, they seem to dislike the Tenure of the lands; and many wish to fetch their relations from the States by the shortest Route. I have permitted some of the most decent people to wait your Excellencys pleasure on that head, But last night about Seventy of the people which had refused to sign went off without leave with the intent never to return.

The only Vessel we have here is

the Seneca, and she is now getting under way with the Discharged men from the Kings Regt. and about thirty Rangers, all that can be found at present. Some able Labourers and good Artificers, not willing to cultivate farms are desirous of staying here, without being furnished with provisions, as it can be attended with no Expence, I must even make a Merit of a Necessity and give my consent, or they will walk off as the others have done. a few of those going down request to go to Nova-Scotia, but none wish to stop at Cataroque. When Lieut. Col. Butler was informed ~~that~~ Your Excellency had abandoned for the present, the scheme of settling the head of the Lake, he assured me ~~that~~ the Majority and the better sort of the Indians wished to settle there only.

only, and I soon received a deputation
consisting of Captains Aaron, Joseph,
and others, to inform me that they
wished Your Excellency would not object
to the Indians settling at the head of the
Lake and the Grand River as they had
made a most Solemn agreement with
the Western Nations ~~that~~ that should
be the place of their Residence. I
beg to inform Your Excellency that
it is only Isaac the Mohawk, and
a few inconsiderable adherents that
wish to be at the Bay of Canty, or
near Cataroque. About fifty of
the principal Indians from the Village
near the Landing, are now at the head
of the Lake Reconnoitering the ground
for an advantageous Settlement
and seem wish it altho your Excelly

should not find it convenient to make
a settlement of white people there.

I have written to Commissary Maclean of Carleton Island desiring him to send some Rum as some will be wanting to pay the debt contracted at Detroit for the rations of the Naval Department, without which we could not have sailed a Vessel this spring - the sailors being determined not to work without that part of their ration. I received for answer, that without your Excelly's. express order neither Rum, nor provisions could be forwarded.

I have the honor to be
Sir Your Excellency's most humble
& most Obed.t Serv.t

A. S. De Peyster

BRITISH MUSEUM

His Excell.y
Genl Haldimand

Niagara the 28 June 1784

Sir

I have this day drawn a Set of Bills upon Your Excellency; favr. of Messrs. Douglas and Symington, for the Amt. of Provincial Contingent Expences at this Post, between the 25 Decemr. 1783 and the 24th of June 1784 Inclusive, the Account herewith Inclosed which I hope will meet your Excellency's approbation.

I have also inclosed the Returns of Officers Commanding at the upper Posts between the 25 June 1783 and 24th June 1784.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Excellency's
most Humble & most Obed. Servt.
A. S. De Peyster

His Excelly. Genl. Haldimand
Commr. in Chief &c

Sachems & Warriors of the Six Nations listen to our meſsenger and believe the words which he brings. —

War being at an End & peace concluded between the United States and the King of England, it is the wish of the United States to live in friendship with all people.

Congreſs have therefore appointed us Commiſsioners to Represent the United States, and directed us to call the different Nations of Indians together, to their Council Fire, at such places as may be most convenient and have given us powers to transact all public buſineſs & Negotiate a General peace with the Six Nations and all the Indian Nations between the Ohio River and the great Lakes. —

We have lately heard that you are called to a Treaty by the Governor of the State of New York. — we know nothing of his intentions or meaning he not being Authorized by Congreſs — Yet should you be set out to attend that Treaty it would be hard to give you the fatigue of another journey, And altho it was our intention the Great Council fire of Congreſs with the Six Nations should have been at Niagara, we will in order to accommodate you, meet you at Fort Stanwix on the 20th Day of September next where we expect you will certainly attend — We desire

you will collect and bring with you all the Prisoners in you
Nations, both white and black, that have been taken thro' the la
war, who must be restored to us as a proof of your sincerity
desire of Peace, protection & friendship from the Congress of t
United States ——

(Sealed & Sign'd)

Arthur Lee
Richd. Butler

w
late
y &c
the

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1784.

The Committee of the States assembled: Present, nine states as yesterday.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Jeremiah Townley] Chase and Mr. [Jacob] Read, to whom was referred a letter from George R. Clarke, of the 26th April, 1784.

Resolved, That Brigadier-General Clarke be informed, in answer to his said letter, that Congress appointed him a commissioner for treating with the Indian nations, from a thorough persuasion of his abilities to discharge that trust. That his appointment is ~~still~~ in full force, his name being included in the general commission for treating with the Indians, but that his ~~attendance to the duties of the office~~ acceptance must be altogether optional with him. That in any casual conference he may have with the western Indians or any of them, the Committee of the States can only authorise him to acquaint them, that it is the earnest desire of the United States in Congress assembled, to be at peace with them; that they have, for that purpose, appointed commissioners to treat with them; that those commissioners have plenary powers; that they are directed to fix on the most convenient times and places for assembling the several nations and tribes of Indians, of which they, the said Indians, will, with all convenient despatch, be informed. And that they may rest assured, the United States will not, in the mean time, undertake any thing to their disadvantage, unless provoked thereto by ~~them~~ hostilities on their part.

Resolved, That copies of General Clarke's letter, and the answer thereto, be transmitted by the Secretary to the Commissioners for treating with the Indians.[1]

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 39. Clark's letter is in No. 78, VI, folio 231.

Resolved, That the Honorable the Commissioners for Treating with the Indian nations be and they are hereby empowered to confer with Colonel Geo. Morgan of Princeton in the State of New Jersey relative to the instruction of the Indian youths at Princeton and with him to take such measures as may appear proper and most for the Satisfaction of the said youths and beneficial to the Interest of the United States of America for the proper support of the said youths and for their return to their own Country as in the wisdom of the said Commissioners shall seem meet.[1]

On a report of the same committee, to whom was referred a letter of the 15 June, from Ebenezer Hazard, postmaster general,

The Committee Consisting of M^r^ [Edward] Hand, M^r^ [Jeremiah Townley] Chase, and M^r^ [Jacob] Read to whom was referred a letter of the 15^th^ June, 1784, from Eben Hazard Post Master Gen^l^, setting forth "That he had directed a suit to be instituted against Gershom Johnston for a violation of the 5^th^ Section of the ordinance for regulating the post office; that Johnston appeared to be sensible of his error and wished that the prosecution might not be suffered to go on; that he did not think himself authorised to discontinue the suit, and prayed for the orders of the Committee of the States,"

Having taken the same into consideration, beg leave to report, that by the 6^th^ Section of the ordinance for regulating the post office, it is ordained, "That if any person not being a post or express rider in the service of the Gen^l^ post office, shall carry any letters, packets or other dispatches from one place to an other within these U. S. on any of the post roads to any place within these U. S. for hire or reward, except in cases as is herein before excepted, or shall not when bringing letters from beyond Sea for hire or reward, deliver the same at the post office, if any there be at the place of his or her arrival, he or she shall, in each of the before mentioned cases forfeit and pay, for every such offence, Twenty dollars; to be recovered by the postmaster gen^l^ or any of his deputies, in an action for debt in the State wherein the offence shall have been committed, with costs of suits." That Congress by their act of the 29^th^ day of May last have resolved, that the committee of the States shall not "repeal or contravene any ordinance or act of Congress."

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[1] This resolution, undated, in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 61. It belongs, apparently, to this period.

Your Committee therefore beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That Ebenezer Hazard, postmaster general, be informed, in answer to his letter of the 15 day of June last, that the committee of the states ~~do not find themselves at liberty~~ are not authorised to order a discontinuance of the suit commenced by his direction against Gershom Johnson, for a violation of the 5th section of the ordinance for regulating the post office.[1]

[Report of M^r^ Edward Hand, M^r^ Jeremiah Townley Chase, M^r^ Jacob Read to whom was referred a letter of June 24, 1784, relative to petition of Robert Shewell in case of Brig L'amiable Elizabeth.]

The Committee consisting of M^r^ [Edward] Hand M^r^ [Jeremiah Townley] Chase and M^r^ [Jacob] Read, to whom was referred a letter of the 24^th^ of June, 1784, from Cha^s^ Thomson Secr^y^ of Congress.

Beg leave to report, That in their opinion, the Committee of the States are fully competent to decide on the report of a Committee of Congress on the petition of Robert Shewell.[2]

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Francis] Dana and Mr. [Roger] Sherman, to whom was referred a petition of Robert Shewell, with sundry papers enclosed,

Resolved, That copies of the papers relating to the brig *l'Amiable Elizabeth*, a French vessel that was deserted by her crew at sea, and was boarded and taken up by citizens of the United States, on the 5th April, 1783, and carried into St. John's, in Newfoundland, where she was seized by a public officer, and her cargo disposed of, be sent to our ministers for negotiating treaties of commerce with foreign powers; and that they be instructed ~~to inquire into the circumstances of the seizure and destruction of said vessel~~ to require of the British Court, that the full value of the said brig and her cargo, be restored for the benefit of Robert Shewell, by whose order she was taken up at sea, and other just claimants, according to the laws and usage of civilized, commercial and friendly nations.[1]

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 31. Hazard's letter is in No. 61, folio 173.

[2] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 37. The indorsement states that it was read this day.

[Motion of Mr Francis Dana seconded by Mr Jacob Read, referred to Mr Francis Dana, Mr Edward Hand Mr Richard Dobbs Spaight]

That a Committee be appointed to take into Consideration an advertisement signed St John agent for the French packet boats dated Boston May, 1784, published in the Boston Gazette and the Country Journal of the 31st of May last and to report to the Committee of the States the measures necessary to be taken to prevent the revenue of the post office from being prejudiced thereby.[2]

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1784.

The Committee of the States assembled; Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

The committee, consisting of Mr. [Francis] Dana, Mr. [Edward] Hand and Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, appointed to take into consideration an advertisement published in "The Boston Gazette, and the Country Journal," of the 31st of May last, signed "St. John, agent for the French packet-boats," and dated "Boston, May, 1784"; report,

That the said advertisement is an open avowal of ~~a direct~~ an intention to contravene an ordinance of the ~~United States~~ Congress for regulating the post-office of these United States; and that the measures therein mentioned, and said

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[1] This report, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 35. A copy signed by Thomson is in No. 44, folio 431.

[2] This motion, in the writing of Jacob Read, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 75.

3

The Rt. Honble. Lord Sidney

Quebec July 16th 1784

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My Lord

Lieut. Colonel Hull in the american Service arrived here on the 10th Instant with a Letter from Major General Knox dated New York the 13th June. I do my Self the Honor to inclose for Your Lordships Information Copies of the Correspondence upon this Occasion (No 1 & No 2). I did not think my Self, from the Tenor of Your Lordships Letter of the 8th of April, authorised to give publickly, any reason for delaying the Evacuation of the Posts, tho' perhaps it Might have had Some Effect in quickening the Efforts of Congress to procure the Execution of the Article of the Definitive Treaty in favor of the Royalists, tho I held the Same private Conversation to Lieut. Col. Hull, as I had to Lieut. Col: Fish

Your Lordship will Observe from the inclosed Papers (No 3 & No 4) that the American Commissioners the Execution of the Article of the Definitive Treaty in favor of the Royalists, tho' I held the Same private Conversation to Lieut. Col. Hull, as I had to Lieut. Col: Fish

Your Lordſhip will Observe from the inclosed Papers (No. 3 & No. 4) that the American Commiſsioners have adopted a More Moderate Language in their Transactions with our Indian Allies. I join with Your Lordſhip in Wishing that Congreſs will profit of the good disposition in which the Indians are to Make a permanent and honorable Peace upon equitable Terms. ——

Sir John Johnson has returned from Cataraqui to Montreal, and has transmitted to me an Abstract of the Royalists who are Settling upon the King's Lands, a Copy of Which (No. 5) is inclosed

In Consequence of the desire Which the Mohawks and Some of the other Indian nations expreſsed to remove to a Tract of Land between the Head of Lake Ontario

Lake

4

Lake Erie and Huron, I gave Sir John Johnson Instructions to Make a Purchase of the Same from the Messessague Indians A Copy of the proceedings relative to this Transaction (No 6) is inclosed for Your Lordships Information. The Settlement proposed there will not only be a Frontier to our other Settlements in that Quarter, but May be Conducive to Securing the Furr Trade to this Province. —

I have the pleasure to acquaint Your Lordship that the Lady Johnson arrived two Days ago, but as the Westerly Winds now prevail, I have been Obliged to Consent that the Indian Presents and Implements of agriculture should be embarked on board Small Vessels in order to be forwarded with greater expedition to Montreal at the Expence & risk of the owners of the Vessel I have the Honor to be &c (Signed) F: H:

The Right Honorable
Lord Sidney ——

Quebec 28th July 1784

My Lord

[illegible]

MONDAY, JULY 26, 1784.

The Committee of the States assembled: Present New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia;

[Motion of Mr. Jacob Read seconded by Mr. Richard Dobbs Spaight.]

PHILADELPHIA, *July 23, 1784.*

SIR,

Genl. Butler and Mr. Lee, two of the Commissioners for negotiating with the Indians inform me that neither of them have got the original commission which was last issued, nor do they know to whom it was sent.

And as during the negotiations it is probable that the Commissioners may be separated, they think it proper and best that each commissioner be furnished with an authentic copy. I beg leave therefore to propose that the honble. committee of the States pass the following order.

On motion *Ordered*, That an exemplification of the commission granted by the United States in Congress assembled, to the commissioners for negotiating with the Indians, and of the resolution empowering any two of them being a majority of those present to do the business of the commission, be made out and delivered to each of the said Commissioners under the seal of the United States.

This will supply the want of the original Commission and answer the wishes of the commissioners, without waiting for the signature of the President who is gone to Black Point and whose return is uncertain.

With great Respect
I have the honor to be Sir
Your mostt. obed and most humble Servt.

CHAS. THOMSON

Honble. S. HARDY.[1]

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[1] This letter, in the writing of Charles Thompson, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 45.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. [Edward] Hand, Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight and Mr. [William] Houstoun, to whom was referred part of a report of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Arthur] Lee and Mr. [Elbridge] Gerry, on letters from the Superintendant of Finance and the Hon^{ble} B. Huntington:

Whereas there is reason to apprehend there are in different parts of the United States, articles of quartermasters', and military stores, cloathing, &c. the property of the United States, which have accidently fallen into the hands of private citizens, or remained in the possession of persons formerly, but not at present in office, of which the heads of the several staff departments have no account;

Resolved, That it be, and hereby is recommended to the executives of the several states, to call on the citizens of their respective states, to make returns forthwith of every species of public property which may be in their possession. And the said executives are requested to forward to Congress, or the committee of the states, a general return of such articles, the property of the United States, as they find to be in the possession of their citizens, or any of them, in which shall be specified the names and places of residence of the persons in whose possession they are.[1]

I have it in charge from the Committee of the States, appointed by Congress to sit during their recess, agreeably to the Confederation, to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Robert Totten to Oliver Pollock agent for the U. S. at the Havanna dated 27th Feby. 1784, and of a letter from said Pollock to the Superintendant of Finance ~~from the same place~~ dated 16th March following, submitted to Congress by him on the 13th April last, ~~as appears by his note of that date a copy of which is inclosed~~

These letters represent that an order of a very extraordinary nature (and which the Committee of the States cannot reconcile with that decency and respect which one sovereign power owes to another with which it is in amity) has been issued by the Governor at the Havanna and that in consequence thereof, the above named Robt Totten as a citizen of these U. S. without having been charged with any ~~previous~~ crime, has been abruptly arrested by an armed force, thrust into a prison among malefactors and otherwise ill treated.

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[1] This report, in the writing of Edward Hand, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 89.

The Committee of the States cannot allow themselves to believe that such measures have been authorised by the Court of Spain, of whose friendly disposition ~~a striking proof has lately been given of which~~ towards the U. States so many proofs have been given.

You will therefore make a proper representation to his Catholic Majesty's Ministers of the outrage complained of and express to them ~~his said Majesty~~ that the Committee of the States do not entertain a doubt but that a satisfactory explanation will be had and ample satisfaction given to the parties if it shall appear that they have been injured, and that orders will be issued to prevent in future any violences or injuries to such of the citizens of these U. S. as may happen ~~to be thrown by stress of weather or otherwise into~~ to be within any port of his Cath: Majesty's Dominions, it being the earnest and sincere wish of the U. S. to preserve inviolate that harmony which at present subsists between the two nations.[1]

On the report of a committee on letter from R. Totten and O. Pollock, the following letter to be written to W. Carmichael:

ANNAPOLIS, *July 26, 1784*.

SIR,

I have it in charge from the Committee of the States appointed by Congress to sit during their recess agreeably to the Confederation to transmit to you a copy of a letter from Robert Totten to Oliver Pollock, agent for the United States at the Havannah, dated 27 Feby. 1784, and a letter from said O. Pollock to the Superintendant of finance dated March 16 following, submitted to Congress by him on the 13 April last.

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[1] This draft, in the writing of William Houstoun [?], is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 97. According to the indorsement it was read this day. See *Post* July 28.

These letters represent that an order of a very extraordinary nature (and which the committee of the S[tates] cannot reconcile with that decency and respect which one sovereign power owes to another with which it is in amity) has been issued by the Governor of the Havanna, and that in consequence thereof the above named Robert Totten, as a citizen of these U. S., without having been charged with any crime, has been abruptly arrested by an armed force, thrust into a prison among malefactors and otherwise ill-treated.

The committee of the S. cannot allow themselves to believe that such measures have been authorised by the Court of Spain, of whose friendly disposition towards the U. S. so many proofs have been given. You will, therefore, make a proper representation to his Catholic Majesty's ministers of the outrage complained of, and express to them that the committee of the S. do not entertain a doubt but that satisfactory explanations will be had and ample satisfaction given to the parties, if it shall appear that they have been injured, and that orders will be issued to prevent in future any violence or injuries to such of the citizens of these U. S. as may happen to be within any part of his Catholic Majesty's dominions—it being the earnest and sincere wish of the U. S. to preserve inviolate that harmony which at present subsists between the two nations.

I have the honor to be, with every sentiment of respect,
Sir, your most ob. hum. Serv.

S. HARDY, *Chairman of the Committee of the States.*

The honble W. CARMICHAEL, Esq.[1]

On motion of Mr. [Jacob] Read, seconded by Mr. [Edward] Hand,

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[1] The above letter and order are found only in Thomson's copy of the proceedings. The letter, however, was not agreed to until July 28. Its insertion here was an inadvertence by Thomson.

Ordered, That the Superintendant of the finances of the U. S. do inform Mr. O. Pollock, agent for the U. S. at the port of Havanna in the island of Cuba, that the Committee of the S. have seen and deliberated on his letter of the 16 March, 1784, to the Superintendant of finance, and have taken such steps as have been judged necessary on the subject contained in the said letter and paper accompanying the same.

Referred to the Superintendant of finance.

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1784.

The Committee of the States assembled: Present, nine states as yesterday.

A motion was made by Mr. [Edward] Hand, in the right of the State of Pensylvania, in the words following:

"Whereas the United States in Congress assembled, did, on the 23d day of January last, cause the following notice to be given to the claimants of the private right of soil, within the territory westward of the river Delaware, formerly in controversy between the state of Connecticut and that of Pensylvania, viz.

"To the claimants of the private right of soil within the territory westward of the Delaware, heretofore in controversy between the states of Connecticut and Pensylvania, and adjudged by the sentence of a court constituted and appointed, agreeably to the ninth of the Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union, to be within the jurisdiction of the state of Pensylvania, it is hereby made known,

That sundry individuals claiming private right of soil under the state of Connecticut, within the said territory, have made application to Congress, stating, that they have been disturbed in their said right of soil, by others claiming under the state of Pensylvania; and praying for the institution of a court, for determining the said private right of

No 8

Letter 26th July 1784

from Arthur Lee

Ric. Butler

Two of the Commissioners for

negotiating peace with the Indians

Read July 30. & referred to

Mr Read

Mr Chase

Mr Hand &c

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Sir   Philadelphia July 26th 1784

On considering the Instructions of Congress to their Commissioners for negociating treaties with the Indian Nations, — we find that they are directed to obtain a particular account of the french Inhabitants at Detroit, Illenois & other Villages within the territories of the U.S. & to give ~~them~~ assurances in the name of the U.S. to such as shall profess allegiance to the U.S. that they shall be protected in their liberty & in their just & lawful property.

But the Commissioners are not impowered to administer to such Inhabitants, the oath of allegiance, without which their professions will be of little validity

Neither have the Com

The Honble
The Chairman of the Committee
of the States

Commiſsioners authority to open a trade between the Citizens of the U.S. & the Indians under proper regulations; or to substitute temporary regulations for such as Congreſs may hereafter think proper to form. We beg leave therefore to submit to the Committee, that such authority is indispensibly neceſsary to secure the friendship & confidence of the Indians by supplying them properly with the Goods they may want, & to ensure the fur & peltry trade to the Inhabitants of the U.S.

We find, farther Sir, that the boundary line which the Commiſsioners are instructed to negociate, is fixed without any discretion in them to alter it. So that should it upon trial appear to be impracticable to obtain that line & yet the Indians should be willing to cede to one nearly or equally as advantageous or even more so to the U. S. the Commissioners have no authority to agree to such alteration, whereby the main business of the treaties may be rendered abortive.

To obviate this, we humbly conceive the Committee will in their wisdom see right to vest the Commissioners with discretionary powers on these points

Finding that the troops voted to be raised to protect the treaties are absolutely necessary, we thought proper to request a meeting with the President & Council of this State, in which we urged the ne-

neceſsity of immediately raising the Quota of this State. In answer to this we received aſsurance that they would preſs the subject upon the Aſsembly as soon as it met, & had no doubt of its being expedited to our wish. We have written to the Governor of New Jersey on the same subject, & shall preſs it in person on Govr. Clinton. We expect to learn from Mr. Woolcot what has been done in Connecticut, from which we shall judge how far it may be neceſsary to urge that Government. We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect

Sir, yr. most obedt. Servts.

Arthur Lee
Richd. Butler

Bay Quinty 29th July 1784

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Colonel Claus

You doubtless remember that I have said in a letter to you that we should be glad to have our land measured as soon as possible & so in order to have a pattent of the land, for the Loyalists would try to get some of our land. It now come to pass as I thought; Major Holland & his son were here yesterday, for to get some land from us for the Loyalists, but I could not spare of any, besides that sir John & I have fixed the boundaries &c — please sir to hasten affairs sir to help us concerning a Charter of our land

I am Sir your most humble servant
John Deserontyon —

[No. 5471.]

Governor Clinton to Joseph Brant as to the Contemplated Council at Fort Schuyler.

Albany, 14th Augt., 1784.

Sir, Mr. Glen has delivered me your Letter of the 21st ult.

It was my Intention to have advised you, by the Runners who should have announced that the Six Nations were on the way down that I had agreed to hold the Treaty at Fort Schuyler agreable to your wish.

In expectation that the Six Nations would have commenced their Journey long before now, I came to this City about a month ago, and shall remain here until I hear that you are on the way down (which I wish may be as soon as possible) and immediately thereupon I shall proceed to Fort Schuyler. You will observe by my Letter of the 12 April last, that the Board of Commissioners in which I preside, were appointed on the part of this State to adjust the subsisting differences between the Six Nations, their immediate Brethren and the People of this state.

I have, however, agreable to your request informed the Commissioners (appointed by Congress to represent this and the other United States in a general Treaty with all Indians possessing the Territory not comprehended by any particular state) that Deputies from other nations will accompany you to the proposed Treaty, whether those gentlemen will attend or not, it is not at present in my power to determine as I have not yet received any answer from them.

It is however indispensibly necessary in order to prevent future occasion of Discord, and to cement the friendship which formerly subsisted between us, that the Treaty proposed on the part of this state should in the first instance be prosecuted without delay, even if the commissioners from Congress should not attend.

I am your most obed. Servt.

Geo. Clinton.

[No. 5472.]

Instructions to Peter Ryckman Who is Charged with a Letter to Brant.

Sir, You are charged with a letter to Joseph Brant with which you will proceed as speedily as possible to Niagara unless you should meet with him at some intermediate places.

You will inform such of the Six Nations as you may meet with in your way of Its contents, and If you should be in council with any nation, you will observe as from yourself that the reason why the communication is immediately made to Brant is because they seem to have appointed him to be the principal negotiator in their behalf.

You will also hint as from yourself that It would be more proper for the Six Nations to transact their business as heretofore when the Onondagas took the lead in their public affairs.

If you find that any Jealousy of, or envy to Brant privails, you will try to discover who are most jealous or envious of him, and promote it as much as you prudently can.

You will frequently in conversation observe to the Indians, that those entrusted to negotiate with them in the past of this state, are well disposed to accommodate matters in principly of mutual benefit to them and us, and that nothing ought to prevent them from improving this favorable disposition without delay and become again wordly connected with their entient brethren.

Fire Place Being at Fort Stanwix. I am, Sir, yr. most obed. Hum'bl. Servand

Jos. Brant.
In behalf of the Confederates.

To Henry Glen, Esqr.

JAMES DUANE EXPRESSES HIS VIEWS ON THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Great difficulty arises from the interference of the proposed Treaty with the Authority & the views of Congress.

Five of the Six Tribes of Indians were at open War with the United States. The general Treaty of Peace doth not mention nor extend to them. Congress, therefore, on the 9th art. of the Confed. claims the exclusive Right to make this peace; And If the Tribes are to be considered as independant nations, detached from the State, and absolutely unconnected with it, the Claim of Congress woud be uncontrovertable.

There is then an indispensable Necessity that these Tribes should be treated as antient Dependants on this State, placed under its protection, with all their territorial Rights, by their own consent publickly manifested in solemn and repeated Treaties. Of this there is sufficient evidence and particularly by the Deeds of 1701 and 1726 which tho' in the name of the King were obtained at the Expence of the people of this State, and for their Benefit. On this ground the Tribes in question may fall under the character of Members of the State, with the Management of whom Congress have no concern.*

But the Spirit of the Message from the Indians rendered questionable whether they will submit to be treated as Dependants.

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*Confed'n. 9th Art. 4th Clause.—J. D.

*They assume a perfect Equality; and instead of Contrition for their perfidious Behaviour, seem ever to consider themselves as the Party courted and sollicited for Reconciliation and Favour.

This then will be a point to be managed with Skill and Delicacy, nor will any Care bestowd on it be misapplied for besides the Respect which we owe to the Union, our own particular Honor, Interest and Safety require that these Tribes shoud be reconciled to the Idea of being Members of the State, dependant upon its government and resting upon its Protection. If we adopt the disgraceful system of pensioning, courting and flattering them as great and mighty nations, we shall once more like the Albanians be their Fools and Slaves, and this Revolution in my Eyes will have lost more than half its' Value.

From these observations it will follow that the Stile, as well as the substance, of the Communications on the part of Government are very material. And I may add that instead of conforming to the ceremonies practiced in Negociations among the Indians it woud be wise to bring them to adopt, gradually our Forms.†

1st. Then If it will not be too great an innovation which I think is not to be apprehended. It woud use neither Belts nor strings in any Communication instead of it, all Messages or Communications shoud be signed or sealed or both.

2nd. I woud never suffer the word nations, or Six Nations, or Confederates or Council Fire at Onondaga, or any other Form which woud revive or seem to confirm their former Ideas of Inde-

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*The piece bears a strong appearance of a British Emissary in its manner and Compaction. The Indians are used to be respectful in their address. This is familiar and even impertinent.—J. D.

†At an interview with some Southern Indians a Committee of Congress adopted this Idea, & told the Indians it was not the usage of Congress to deliver strings or Belts.—J. D.

pendence to except. I would say nothing of making peace or burying the Hatchet, for that woud be offensive to Congress, perhaps very Justly. But I woud study to carry on the Intercourse (for I object even against the Term Treaty, which seems to much to employ Equality) with as much plainess and simplicity as possible—and as if I was actually transacting Business with the Citizens. This must, I am sensible, be repugnant to the opinions which will be given at Albany; but their management instead of humbling, gave the Indians the superiority and made them their Tyrants; and I have long & fatal Experience to convince me that they were in a wrong course.

3dly. As to the substance of the speech it may be introduced by observing that the Return of the Tribes into this state and the eagerness of the Citizens to obtain settlements in the western Countries led to apprehensions that mutual Resentm't. and animosity might bracke forth into Outrage and Hostelity; disturb the peace so lately established and render a Reconciliation altogether impracticable. That these consid'n had induced me to consent to the present meeting. This might be followed by a Recapulation of the kind and gracious manner in which they and their ancestors had been treated by the Dutch and their descendants, & successors, who never once deceived or betrayed or injured them, but always fought for their protection and relievd their Wants and Distresses. They should be told of the Friendship and Harmony which almost uninterruptedly subsisted between them & the Inhabitants of this state for ages. They shoud be reminded of the kind and generous advice given them at the Commencement of the late war—"to sit still and smoke their pipes in peace in their own shades," that they rejected this advice and without any provocation burnt & destroyed our villages & effects & slaughtered our Citizens; that we foretold to them the Consequences of such a Behaviour, "that the hand of the United States coud reach the remotest corner of their country, and that they would avenge the wrongs done to our Citizens." That the Indians had felt the Truth of this Prediction and been driven from their native Homes & suffered all the Horrors of War. That they had seen their late Friends the British who deluded them, conquered, and reduced to the Necessity of making a peace and sealing the sovereignty and Independence of the United States by a solemn Treaty.

That they the Indians now had their Eyes opened by their sufferings and misfortunes: and plainly saw that their true happiness consisted not in the professions and flatteries of strangers; but in the steady Kindness and Friendship of their own Countrymen, born in and inhabiting the same soil which they themselves inherited. That much as we had been injured, Forgiveness was a principle which we professed: that we were willing that they shoud be restored once more in their native Land with their wives & their Children & live in interrupted Tranquility that for this purpose and to prevent future Animosity and Contention we woud establish a Line between the settlements of the white people, and the Lands to be reserved for the use of ye Ind'n brethren of our State in such a manner as woud be for the advantage and comfort of both parties; And we woud prevail on all our Citizens, even those who had been most injured by the Ravages & murders perpetrated by the Indians, to forgive what was past—provided the Indians on their part woud be reasonable in their Claims, equitable in their Concessions and indoffensive in their future Deportment.

Sentiments like these may properly introduce the Business to be negociated.

4thly. The Stile by which the Indians are to be addressed is of

Moment also. They are used to be called Brethren, Sachems and Warriors of the Six Nations. I hope it will never be repeated. It is sufficient to make them sensible that they are spoken to: without complementing 20 or 30 Mohawks as a nation and a few more Tusceroroes & Onondagoes as distinct nations. It woud be not less absurd than mischievous. They shoud rather be taught that by separating from the Oneidas, and entering into a wicked war, they had weakened and destroyed themselves and that the publick opinion of their importance had long since ceased.

[No. 5470.]

Governor Clinton to Arthur Lee, Richard Butler & Oliver Wolcott, U. S. Commissioners in Relation to the Frontier Posts and the Coming Council with the Indians at Fort Schuyler.

Albany, August 13, 1784.

Gentlemen, Your letter of the 10th of this Month by Mr. Monroe has just been handed to me.

The recommendation of Congress to the State to raise from the Militia a certain number of Troops for the purpose of Garrisoning the frontier Posts and protecting the Treaties to be held with the Indians did not reach me till some time in July. The Legislature of the State who alone were competent to this business had then dispersed after a session which from the peculiar circumstances of the State had detained them from the fall untill late in the spring, and it was not only my opinion but that of every Member of the Legislature whom I had an opportunity of consulting—that it would then be impracticable to convene them together; nor indeed did the urgency of the case seem to require that they should be put to so great an inconvenience—for tho' they had assembled and complied with the recommendation of Congress—it would have been already too late in the season to have established the Garrison in which the Troops were required; and besides I had rece'd information (in a manner which assured credit) & which congress could not be apprized of at the time that altho' the Definitive treaty was officially rece'd in Canada no Orders had come from Europe for Evacuating the Posts—and I have good reasons to believe that untill such orders are rece'd no measures will be taken for that purpose. If, therefore, the Legislature were to raise a permanent force as recommended—they could not be applied to the purpose proposed, & would only be a useless addition to Expences which we are already but too little able or disposed to discharge.

I conceive myself however authorized to draw from the Militia a force sufficient If any should be necessary, to protect the Commissioners of Congress in negociation with the Indians and this will in a great measure save the unnecessary expence attending a present permanent force.

The Indians of the Six nations whom I have requested to convene at Fort Schuyler, have advised me that they will be accompanied by deputies from other nations possessing the territory within the Jurisdiction of the United States. I shall have no objection to your improving this incident to the advantage of the United States, expecting however and positively stipulating that no long agrement be entered into with Indians residing within the Jurisdiction of this State, with whom only I mean to treat, prejudicial to its rights. Those engagements being made on your part, you may rely on every exertion in my power, and that of my Colleagues, to promote the Interest of the United States which I flatter myself, no state in the federal union has at any time more chearfully & effectually supported than this.